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CHRONICLE

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PLEA FOR NHS CARE EQUALITY

Glyn Davies MP

Report by Sue Austin

AN influential group of MPs has made fresh calls for NHS patients in Mid Wales to enjoy the same treatment as those in Shropshire.

It is hoped that the moves will further ensure patients in Welshpool for example are treated as equals to their counterparts in Oswestry when they are accessing NHS care.

A cross party parliamentary committee said the NHS in Wales and England must work more closely on cross border health care. More than 20 recommendations have been made ranging from finding ways to have the same hospital waiting times for English and Welsh patients to providing the same access to cancer drugs.

The differing levels of care patients receive from the NHS came into sharp focus last year when the then Powys County Council deputy leader Myfanwy Alexander used the N-word during a meeting when she was describing how she felt some Mid Wales patients were treated. She subsequently apologised for using the offensive term and although she denied she was racist she said she felt she had to resign from her cabinet position.

In its new report, the committee praised Shropshire health bosses and Powys Local Health Board for cross border arrangements already in place. But the report says that many Clinical Commissioning Groups operate two waiting lists, which differentiate between patients on whether they are 'Welsh' patients or 'English' patients.

The report says: "It is our view that providers should not be in this position."

Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies said: "One of the most important features already in place is that Mark Drakeford, Welsh health minister, has now said that Welsh patients should be treated in the place that is clinically best for them, which may not necessarily be in Wales.

"I am also pleased that the report highlights the inequality in money for cancer drugs as I know two people that have moved from Wales to England purely to access the England NHS cancer drugs fund."

Adrian Osborne from Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust welcomed the report saying: "Many people living on the border between England and Wales rely on services across the border. The report highlights some of the challenges they face, and sets out steps at both governmental and community-level to address these.

"It's particularly reassuring that cross-border leadership of the NHS Future Fit programme has been highlighted as good practice. Our communities have a right to expect that this important review will encompass the needs and views of all communities who rely on the county's main hospitals, and the report has recommended that our approach is replicated along the border."

● Pressures – See Page 12

Assurances given over budget cut

YOUTH funding in Oswestry will be cut by almost two thirds this financial year but a much better service will be provided, councillors have said.

Oswestry's Local Joint Committee announced that youth services will have a budget of £24,500 for 2015/16 compared with the previous budget of £88,000. But Shropshire Council Leader Keith Barrow said the money will be put to better use than previously as local people will decide what to do with it.

"It looks like considerably less money but we're going to be doing considerably more. That's the benefit you get by devolving the money to local people," he said.

Some of the ideas put forward already for funding include a series of youth activity sessions to be held weekly at The Centre, Oak Street, where a youth club already meets.

Activities could take place at other locations around the town as well, with the Oswestry Otters swimming club based at the Marches School proposing a girls-only club.

A six-week consultation has opened on the youth service proposals at www.shropshire.gov.uk

Search is on for special constables

POLICE in Mid Wales want to recruit another 100 special constables to help safeguard the region.

Dyfed-Powys Police said it wants people to give up to 16 hours a week to increase its number of specials to 200.

A drop-in session will be held in Welshpool this weekend to help recruit the new officers.

The session will be held in Welshpool Police Station on Saturday.

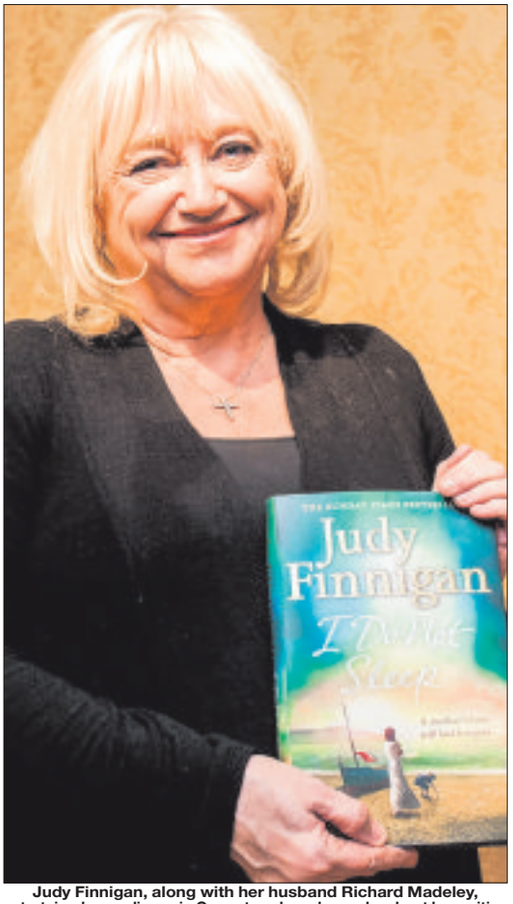
Constable Jim Baines along with serving special constable Vicky Stray will be on hand with information between 10am and noon.

Officers will also be available at a weekly surgery at The Flash Leisure Centre between 5.30pm and 6.30pm on Thursday evenings over the coming weeks.

Chief Constable Simon Prince said: "We know that the best way to support a community and help resolve the issues that matter is by getting involved, understanding the people and the area, almost becoming one of the residents.

"We want to take this a step further, and we want local residents to help us by volunteering as a special constable."

TV's Judy in town for LitFest date



Judy Finnigan, along with her husband Richard Madeley, entertained an audience in Oswestry when she spoke about her writing

Festival is launched

TV'S golden couple Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley had the privilege of opening this year's Oswestry Literary Festival when the pair entertained a sell-out audience at the Wynnstay Hotel in the town.

The launch event saw Richard interview his wife about her new novel I Do Not Sleep.

The packed audience was not only treated to an insight into Judy's writing but was also given snippets of the couple's life together.

The couple found national fame on television, first through presenting ITV's This Morning and then hosting their own show Richard & Judy for Channel 4.

They also launched the Richard & Judy Book Club and have both become writers in their own right.

Their appearance at the Wynnstay Hotel on Friday last week kicked off this year's Oswestry Literary Festival.

Various high profile authors are taking part in this year's LitFest.

Among them will be Tony Blair's former spin doctor Alastair Campbell who is due to appear at the Lion Quays Hotel near Oswestry tonight (Thursday).

A host of other events will also be held until the festival ends on Friday next week.

Visit www.oswestrylitfest.co.uk for details of all events.

● Tale – See Page 4

CRIME

The use of police station is under review says chief

MORE police stations could close across Shropshire under plans that could see officers sharing buildings with the fire service.

West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner Bill Longmore is currently reviewing the use of stations, including Oswestry Police Station, amid plans that would see officers based within the same building as firefighters.

Oswestry's station was among several in the county which lost front counter services in a shake-up last year.

Other stations were closed completely and Mr Longmore has now said the remaining stations were under review.

Mr Longmore said: "It is an ongoing thing. All the stations that have been closed were closed for the right reasons.

"I think we have got to look at them all now and think 'could we make another move?' That is why we are in consultation with fire stations.

"It is a question of looking at everything and making sure that everything is being done correctly. Over the last two months in particular, the fire service has been looking to work closer with the police and there are opportunities for the fire and police stations to work closer together. This is very important for both of them."

The police stations in the county which were closed last year to the public were replaced with "contact points" in a bid to save money.

FOOTBALL

Celebrations for Saints in league

IT was celebration time once again for Oswestry's The New Saints after the football club secured its fourth consecutive Welsh Premier title at the weekend.

A 3-0 victory over Bala Town was enough to keep the league trophy in Oswestry. The victory meant TNS wrapped up the title with five games to spare. Saturday's success marked the second leg of their treble quest with the Saints having already won the Word Cup and few would bet against them making it three trophies after reaching the semi-finals of the Welsh Cup.

● Champs – See Page 48

INSIDE

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PICTURE PREVIEW

North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson joined in with an anti-pylon protest. Find out more on Page 5

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Complex is given approval despite height concerns

Report by Sue Austin

A CONTROVERSIAL four-storey extra care housing development has been given the go-ahead – despite worries over its height.

Wrekin Housing Trust's plans to build the 53-apartment complex and eight bungalows on the site of the former Oswestry Borough Council depot on Alexandra Road were approved by members of Shropshire Council's north planning committee.

It comes after members were told that deferring a decision could see the trust lose a £2 million Government grant for the project.

Paul Wiseman, a spokesman for the residents of the area, said: "We have no objection to this development for social housing, we are objecting to the four storey block of flats which is totally out of character with the local area.

"We are concerned about access along roads that have an enormous problem with on-street parking and also with the amount of car parking, just 28 spaces for potentially 120 people."

Councillor Vince Hunt said extra care housing – which enables older people to live in their own homes but with support nearby – was absolutely the right use for the site and would invigorate the area but only if it was a smaller development.

"It is the scale of the development that has raised such concern. This has the potential to have a hugely positive impact but not at this scale," he said.

Councillor Joyce Barrow said there was a huge need locally for supported accommodation but said the fourth storey let the proposed development down.

"The scale and density is just too much," she said.

Heather Sutton, for the architects representing Wrekin Housing Trust, said the development would be sunk into the landscape so that it would not be overpowering.

"This extra care scheme has won £2 million of government grant to provide much needed housing of this kind," she said.

"There will be much less traffic than when this site was a council depot."

Councillors considered deferring the application to negotiate on details such as the balconies but voted instead to give officers delegated powers after hearing this could lose the development the grant and put it in jeopardy.

Couple's killer on the run from prison

Anthony and Linda O'Malley from Llangollen disappeared while on a house-hunting trip to Spain

ONE of the brutal killers of a couple from Llangollen who were kidnapped and murdered while house hunting for a dream holiday home in Spain more than 12 years ago, is reported to be on the run.

Venezuelan national Jorge Real Sierra, now aged 65, had been allowed out on a special six-day temporary release from a Granada prison.

The South American, and his brother-in-law Jose Antonio Velazquez, were jailed for the torture and killing of Linda and Anthony O'Malley in 2006.

An arrest warrant has been issued by the Provincial Court in Alicante when Sierra failed to return to prison and police have launched a hunt across Spain for the fugitive. Sierra was jailed for 62 years and Gonzales, now aged 50, was sentenced to 54 years having been convicted of the O'Malley's murders. They were expected to serve at least 25 years.

The killers were also ordered to return the money they stole from the O'Malleys' accounts, as well as paying £145,000 compensation to their family.

The couple's relatives welcomed the sentences at the time, saying that they were as severe as they could have expected.

Linda, 56, a manageress at a department store in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, and Anthony, 42, a car restorer, had travelled to Spain in September 2002 and were last seen in the Benidorm area on the Costa Blanca by a local estate agent.

The O'Malleys were ensnared after spotting a newspaper advertisement offering a two-bedroom villa, with swimming pool and pine woodland, for €30,000 (£20,300).

The unsuspecting couple were fatally lured to view the villa and their search for a dream retirement home in the sun turned into a nightmare.

The O'Malley's were held, bound and gagged for almost three weeks in the basement of the property while their kidnappers systematically emptied the couple's bank account of their £20,000 life savings.

ADVERTORIAL

FIX AUTO OSWESTRY PREPARES TO LAUNCH A SECOND SITE IN WREXHAM

Fix Auto UK's flag will be raised above Wrexham this Spring after the Hitch family, owners of Fix Auto Oswestry, announced plans to invest in developing a new bodyshop in the North Wales town.

The brainchild of Managing Director Lee Hitch, the move is the first expansion for the family-owned business which celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2013 and further underlines the belief the businessman has in the ever-developing Fix Auto UK network. The new bodyshop will operate under the name of Fix Auto Wrexham.

Conveniently situated in the centre of the Wrexham Industrial Estate, work has already commenced on transforming a bare industrial unit into a state-of-the-art repair bodyshop spanning 5,000ft².

In order to meet output demands, central to the development will be a moveable spraybooth spanning six bays rather than a single conventional static spraybooth. The new centre will be managed by Shane Price, who is being promoted from estimator at Fix Auto Oswestry.

While it will be initially staffed by three existing members of staff, a spraypainter, panel technician and administrator/ receptionist will be recruited to join the team.

Said Lee: *"We've listened to our customers and we feel there's a necessity to create a secondary repair centre in order to bridge a geographical gap between our existing site and Chester. Fix Auto UK is gaining strength and the necessity to support our customers' needs are paramount."*

Lee added: *"We have learned a lot from what our colleagues throughout the Fix Auto UK network have developed over recent times and while our new centre will still be a traditional bodyshop, using a moveable booth will enable us to operate from a 5,000ft² unit and yet still produce an output of repairs normally associated with a unit of 10,000ft² or more."*

Fix Auto UK's Managing Director Ian Pugh, said *"What Lee and his team at Fix Auto Oswestry are proposing is another significant and exciting investment for the network. It is particularly pleasing to see organic growth coming from within the network, which complements our traditional network development activity, and I will be delighted to see the new site come on stream in the Spring."*

Fix Auto Oswestry Managing Director Lee Hitch is currently transforming an empty industrial unit into Fix Auto Wrexham.

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Learner was over the drinks limit

A LEARNER driver who crashed into an oil storage tank in a pub car park has been banned from driving for 17 months.

Tracey Janet Michelle Anderson, 33, admitted drink-driving on February 22 at the Dolphin in Llanymynech. She said the crash happened because her foot slipped off the brake – not because she was over the limit.

Helen Tench, prosecuting at Welshpool Magistrates Court on Tuesday, said Anderson had been moving her husband's car from where it had been valeted into the pub car park. She said: "One of the neighbours heard a loud bang and saw a car very close to her house. The neighbour saw her heating oil had been pushed back and decided to call the police.

"When they arrived they saw there was no damage to the car and no damage to the oil." A roadside breath test showed Anderson, of Haddwch Lane, Pant, had 87 microgrammes of alcohol in 100ml of breath, making her more than double the drink-drive limit.

Magistrates fined Anderson £110 and ordered her to pay £85 costs and a £20 surcharge. She was disqualified from driving for 17 months.

Owain Jones, for Anderson, said: "She drove a short distance on a private car park to move the car approximately 60ft. It was described to me as a nudge of the heating tanks with no apparent damage."

Wartime planes flying at show

WARTIME planes such as the Dakota, Hurricane and the Spitfire have been added to the line-up for one of the biggest air shows in the region.

The Royal Air Force has confirmed its involvement in the Bob Jones Memorial Airshow, which takes place at June 14 at Welshpool Airport. As a result the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight will take to the skies, as will the RAF Falcons parachute team, a Typhoon aircraft, the Red Arrows and a Vulcan bomber.

A spokesman for the event said: "The line-up is now more or less complete and that we can all expect another fantastic show both in the air and on the showground."

There has already been dozens of bookings for the Festival of Transport that takes place on the ground, organisers added. For further information visit www.welshpoolairshow.co.uk

Review over schools to take place in autumn

Report by Sue Austin

COUNCIL chiefs have said a review of Welsh-medium education in North Powys will take place in September.

The review will explore the possibility of establishing at least one Welsh-medium secondary school in the area, and assessing the viability of dual-stream provision.

A business case will be considered by Powys County Council's cabinet in September.

The review is part of a wider overhaul of secondary education in Powys which will see the closures of schools in the county.

Cabinet member for schools Councillor Arwel Jones said: "Our secondary schools have done a valiant job in the past delivering excellent results.

"But, falling school rolls and financial pressures have created a position that cannot be tackled without radical change.

"We simply don't have enough pupils or resources to sustain current school numbers, if we try, we will fail and it will be our young learners that lose out.

"Our goal is simple – to transform education in Powys to ensure all our young learners have the best possible chance of achieving their full potential.

"The work so far has identified the number and size of secondary schools we need, the minimum number of pupils required to maintain viable sixth forms and the best way to deliver Welsh-medium education across the county.

"We would like to see thriving Welsh-medium streams which have enough pupils to sustain at least two classes per year group. This will enable schools to provide an extensive curriculum through the medium of Welsh."

Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies has previously spoken of his opposition to council plans to close secondary schools within Montgomeryshire, and has recently met with council leaders to discuss the issue. Mr Davies said: "The review will require very careful consideration by the council.

"I remain totally unconvinced that closure of any of Montgomeryshire's high school is the best way forward.

"Such a decision will have huge implications for whichever Montgomeryshire town is affected, and will provide a devastating blow to children, parents, teachers and communities."

Rod gears up for cycle challenge

Rod Evans from St Martins will be cycling from north to south Wales for two charities

A CYCLIST will be putting his pedal power to good use later this year with a 250-mile bike ride to raise funds for not one but two air ambulance organisations.

Rod Evans, 36, from St Martins near Oswestry, has become a veteran charity fundraiser thanks to the sponsored events he has taken part in over the last decade.

This year will be one of the toughest taking in two Tour of Britain sections.

Mr Evans will be cycling 250 miles over three days from north to south Wales starting from September 3-5. "I will be riding 90 miles on the first two days and finally 70 miles on the last day," he said.

"This year I have decided to fundraise for both the Midlands and Wales Air Ambulance as they both cover our regions. Neither get help from the government or lottery money and I feel that they are charities that need our help."

His support group will be wife, Jo, and seven-year-old daughter, Louise.

"My daughter is great, she will definitely be shouting, 'come on daddy'," he said.

On day one of "Rod's Tour of Wales" Mr Evans will be travelling from Abergele to Dolgellau travelling across the famous Snowdonia mountains including a 21-mile stretch of this year's Tour of Britain just days before the professional riders.

The following day he will travelling from Dolgellau to St David's in Pembrokeshire along the coast roads before finishing with a final day to Abergavenny including his final challenge, the famous Tumble climb featured on stage three of the Tour of Britain.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man facing girl sex allegations

A MAN has appeared in court charged with a string of sexual offences involving a girl.

Kirk Mark Tranchard, of Tan y Graig, Montgomery, faces three charges of rape of a girl under 13.

He also faces five charges of engaging in penetrative sexual activity with a girl aged 13 to 15.

The offences are alleged to have taken place between 2008 and 2012, and they all involve the same complainant.

Tranchard, 24, gave no indication of his plea during his appearance at Welshpool Magistrates Court on Tuesday.

The case was committed to the crown court.

He was given bail and will next appear at Mold Crown Court on March 27.

Court remands alleged attacker

A MAN charged with raping a woman in the early hours of New Year's Day in an alleged sex attack in Oswestry has appeared before Shrewsbury Crown Court.

Howard Long, 31, of Melverley, appeared via a video link in a brief appearance at the crown court on Monday.

He faces charges of rape, attempted rape and two charges of assault by penetration.

The offences are alleged to have taken place in Oswestry.

No plea was taken and the case was adjourned until April 7 for a plea and case management hearing.

Judge Robin Onions remanded Long in custody.

Carnival stall appeal is issued

ORGANISERS of West Felton Carnival are calling for stallholders and crafters to book stalls at the event which will take place on July 12.

Eileen Hamner, the carnival committee secretary, said: "Anyone involved in a cottage industry, crafting or if you have anything interesting or unusual to sell then please do try out a stall at the carnival."

For more information or for a booking form and details of the cost call (01691) 610629.

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Jesse has a tale to tell as he comes home for festival

Report by Pam Kingsley

HE is best known for being half of the comic writing duo behind a string of shows including Peep Show, That Mitchell and Webb Thing, and Babylon.

But next week literature fans will be able to see another side to Jesse Armstrong as he talks about his new book, and returns to his home town, at Oswestry LitFest.

Now living in London, Jesse went to Marches School and his parents still live in Oswestry. He said he is looking forward to returning to his old stomping grounds for the event.

"I'm looking forward to seeing old friends and family. It's quite romantic really because I was born in Oswestry and the evening's being held across the road from Oswestry Library where I used to go as a child and a young man," he said.

"The book is the reason for coming up to the festival, but a lot of that is about Oswestry and Chirk and Wrexham as well. The central character is from this area and although it's about them going to Bosnia, it's a book about borders between England and Wales, and all the borders around the Balkans, so it feels like the right time to come back for me."

The novel, Love, Sex and Other Foreign Policy Goals, isn't published until April 2, but Jesse said he is hoping to have advance copies available for his talk at Kinokulture Cinema on Tuesday.

"The cover is fantastic. I hope the inside is as good as the cover. I'd like people to judge the book by its cover," he said.

"I hope I'll have copies at the talk, but if not then I'll come back to Oswestry to Booka Bookshop to do a signing there later.

"I think I always wanted to write a novel – I always liked the idea. My dad is a novelist so there's that in my background. I felt like I wrote it very quickly but it probably took about three years. I'd had an idea percolating for a while and I met my agent and she was very encouraging.

"For all sorts of writing you have highs and lows. Some days you think it's brilliant and other days you think it's not. I can't say I liked it all – I procrastinated like all writers do, but overall I like being a writer and it's a privilege to tell stories and have fun with your ideas."

It was a love of writing that brought Jesse together with his screen writing partner Sam Bain. He said: "At university I did creative writing as part of my degree and I met Sam there. We both started off writing prose. Sam's written a novel too."

For ticket information on all the Oswestry LitFest events visit www.oswestrylitfest.co.uk

LitFest is a big draw for town

MEMBERS of this year's Oswestry LitFest audience are once again coming from near and far, organisers have said.

And the huge interest in the wide variety of LitFest events is set to continue.

LitFest's PR officer, Jools Payne said: "We know from our audience data capture that visitors come in to LitFest events from North Wales, Powys, Cheshire, the Black Country and beyond.

"They tell us they enjoy the town and especially its eclectic mix of independent shops, cafés and restaurants."

This year's LitFest is sponsored by several leading Shropshire organisations including Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors, Marches Care, Morris Cook Chartered Accountants, Network Support Solutions, Oswestry School and The Shropshire Star and Oswestry and Border Chronicle.

Among the highlights still to come during the festival fortnight is a talk by history author Simon Greaves. He will be at Oswestry Library tomorrow evening (Friday).

On Monday and Wednesday evening Kinokulture cinema will be screening Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre's production of hamlet. On Thursday next week historian Marc Morris will be in Oswestry to talk about his new bestseller King John, Treachery, Tyranny and the Road to Magna Carta. And on Friday next week author Matt Haig will talk about his new book Reasons to StayAlive.

For ticket information to all events visit www.oswestrylitfest.co.uk

Star tells of her love of writing

Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley share a joke during their Oswestry appearance

THEY were the darlings of daytime TV for 21 years, but Judy Finnigan has admitted that she is happy to be out of the pressure cooker world of television and writing novels instead.

But she told an Oswestry audience that she would never want to write a book about that world she left behind.

Judy and her husband and TV partner Richard Madeley launched Oswestry Lit-Fest on Friday last week with a sell-out "audience with" event at the town's Wynnstay Hotel.

As Richard interviewed his wife about her new novel, I Do Not Sleep, they shared snippets of their life together, from their love of Cornwall, where the book is set, to their habit of sitting on each side of a table at home writing novels on laptop computers.The couple said they wanted to ensure new writers were given a break and praised a member of the audience, Rozi Moore, 30, who was shortlisted in their competition to find a best seller.

"All the books were shortlisted were terrific, don't give up writing," Richard told her. Mrs Moore, who lives in Oswestry, said that even though she hadn't won the competition she now had a publisher interested in her novel, I am Aphrodite.

Judy said: "It is really hard to get published. You could have the best novel in the world but if you do not get that break then it can lay undiscovered forever."

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Paterson calls for an end to subsidies for wind firms

Report by Sue Austin

NORTH Shropshire MP and former Environment Secretary Owen Paterson has called for the ending of subsidies for windfarm companies.

Mr Paterson says wind power is unreliable and lost its usefulness in the middle ages with windmills.

He said if energy companies did not have subsidies they wouldn't want to build windfarms in Mid Wales and without the windfarms there would be no need for a high voltage power line that is set to be built across parts of Powys and Shropshire. Pylons would be needed to carry the power cable to link the Mid Wales windfarms to the national network and campaigners say the pylons will damage the tourism industry and create an eyesore.

Mr Paterson was speaking at a demonstration at the British Ironwork Centre tourism attraction at Aston near Oswestry on Wednesday last week.

National Grid plans to put one of its pylons on the site of a sculpture park being created by Clive Knowles from the British Ironwork Centre.

Mr Knowles says the worry over the future of his business was making him lose sleep.

Demonstrators held up placards calling for no pylons and no windfarms.

Mr Paterson said: "Wind power is extremely ineffective and should have gone out of use in the late middle ages.

"We should be looking at other renewable energy such as anaerobic digesters.

"I want to see subsidies for wind power companies removed.

"I know of people who couldn't afford to heat their homes in north Shropshire this winter when money is being spent subsidising these companies.

"These pylons would damage the the north Shropshire countryside, its economy and its environment."

Mr Knowles, whose company employs almost 50 people, said: "The British Ironwork Centre is now the fourth most popular tourist attraction in Shropshire according to Trip Advisor.

"We have exciting plans for our sculpture park and other attractions here but the business is being blighted by the worry over these pylons."

One of the protestors at the demonstration was Oswestry Town Councillor and guest house owner, Chris Schofield.

He said: "The economy of this area is increasingly dependent on tourism.

"But people come here to see our beautiful countryside and our heritage."

"They don't come here to see pylons," Councillor Schofield added.

Owen Paterson joined an anti-pylon protest at the British Ironwork Centre

Sales cheer for county breweries

THERE has never been a better time to be a beer drinker, Shropshire brewers have said.

It comes as it was revealed the pint is going from strength to strength as other alcohol sales decline.

Nationally, people are drinking a fifth less alcohol than a decade ago, but beer is bucking the trend and Shropshire's 16 micro-breweries have noticed, citing increased interest in artisan foods and the backing of supermarkets as reasons why.

Research by the British Beer & Pub Association has revealed people drank an average of 7.76 litres of alcohol last year, a litre and a half less than in 2004.

But beer's share of the market increased to more than 36 per cent last year, ahead of wine (33 per cent), spirits (21 per cent) and cider (eight per cent).

Shane Parr, director at Oswestry's Stonehouse Brewery, said:"We started here eight years ago back when there were 400 breweries in the UK. Now there are about 1,200.

"We've seen a 25 to 30 per cent increase in beer sales, particularly in real ale. This is why we've gone from a company that employed one person to one that employs 11.

"People in Shropshire are very lucky, there are a lot of breweries here and they're all competing against each other which raises the quality, but they've all grown.

"We're at the point where if we get larger we won't be a micro brewery anymore."

Investment welcomed

HEALTH services in Powys have been given a boost with a £1.2million investment from the Welsh Government's Invest to Save funding.

From the money, £407,000 has been allocated to fund changes to community pharmacy services which will generate savings of £250,000 a year from 2016/17. The second scheme is the development of community resource teams which will improve patient care in the community and generate savings of £588,000 a year from 2016-17.

The third scheme involves bringing in e-rostering for the workforce of the health board. This approach is used by other health boards and reduces overtime costs and the use of external staff, saving an estimated £136,000 per annum from 2016/17.

And Powys will also benefit from an extra £167,000 for LED and energy efficiency schemes. Staff at Powys teaching Health Board welcomed the investment. Carol Shillabeer, interim chief executive, said: "This investment is excellent news for Powys. By investing in our community resource teams we will be able to bring direct benefit to patients in Powys. The pilot work we have done has shown that these teams can help to support patients in their own homes and reduces the number of people being admitted to hospital unnecessarily.

"The additional funding for e-rostering, community pharmacy and estates projects will bring additional benefits and enable the health board to be more efficient in service delivery."

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

Plans for the future of primary school education in Welshpool are really hotting up with a pot of Welsh Government money burning holes in the pockets of Powys County Councillors.

The problem is that the money has to be spent by 2017 or it will be lost to the county for ever – and that doesn't leave councillors much time to sort things out.

The council members are already preoccupied with massive cost savings after budgets from the Assembly were slashed but this really is a chance to streamline education in the town as well as saving a small fortune.

The town has four primary schools – Maesydre, Gungrog Road, Oldford and Ardwyn – and there are plans to lump all together along with Leighton.

It makes complete sense to build a new "super school", particularly when you consider the cost of running dilapidated buildings, which in some cases are barely fit to house children.

Old and failing heating systems are also adding to spiralling running costs. The problem is none of the schools want to close. Each school is run by determined teams of governors who will be hell-bent on protecting their own schools.

At Leighton parents have already mounted a campaign to keep their school open. . And at Gungrog Road Church In Wales School there will be a separate argument facing Powys planners.

But the biggest case for fighting closure will surely be at Ardwyn School where pupils are taught through the medium of the Welsh language. Powys County Council will have to cater for Welsh language education and at the very least will need a specialist wing on any new "super school" built in Welshpool or to keep Ardwyn open.

The Maesydre School location would seem the best to develop as the ageing building is going to cost Powys County Council a great deal of money simply to maintain – and there is room for a new building at the rear. But access to Maesydre is shambolic and planners will surely be heavily influenced by the narrow entrance and the lack of parking facilities.

So why not downsize the underused playing fields at Welshpool High School and build the new school there, allowing for easy access for shared facilities such as The Flash and the football pitches?

Local Powys councillors will be coming under heavy pressure from those who voted them into power and will soon be facing up to some of the hardest decision they have faced so far.

Then they have the small decision on which high school to close in North Powys to consider.

Good luck with that.

Sergeant Harold Whitfield, of Oswestry, receives the Victoria Cross from the King

A glum-looking Major Yate in a picture clearly taken after he was captured during WW1

Lieutenant Thomas Wilkinson who was awarded the VC for his actions at the Somme

Memorials for four heroes who sacrificed their lives

Special memorials are to commemorate Victoria Cross heroes from Shropshire. By Toby Neal.

FOUR Shropshire Victoria Cross heroes of the Great War, including one from Oswestry, are among those being honoured by the laying of commemorative paving stones, as part of a programme launched by David Cameron at the National Memorial Arboretum.

One of the specially-designed paving stones has already been delivered to Madeley in Telford where plans have been drawn up to lay it as part of a general refurbishment around the war memorial.

Major Charles Allix Lavington Yate, of Madeley, Telford, fought to the last against overwhelming odds at the Battle of Le Cateau on August 26, 1914, and was initially reported killed, although he had in fact been taken prisoner.

Refurbishment

The idea of the scheme has been that the paving stones are laid on the centenary of the dates on which the original medals were won, but in Madeley that has not happened because the opportunity is being taken to incorporate Yate's paving stone within the planned war memorial refurbishment.

Madeley Town Council's regeneration officer Andy Rose has applied for funding for the work and a decision is expected later this month.

"If we get it, it's all systems go for a refurbishment of the whole area," said town clerk Kath Petty.

"All the hardstanding around the war memorial is going to be upgraded and refurbished.

"It's okay, but could do with a sprucing up, and us having the paving stone was an opportunity for doing that.

"The war memorial will be slightly repositioned so it faces the town centre rather than is at right angles to it, and the paved area around it will be increased as there is not really enough room on Remembrance Day.

"There will be some general landscaping, and the incorporation of the stone."

The aim is to get everything done in time for Remembrance Day this year.

As for the stone itself, it has previously been on display at the town council's offices in Jubilee House, but is now no longer on show and is being kept safe in preparation for the work.

David Cameron with family representatives of Victoria Cross recipients

The other Shropshire Victoria Cross winners to be honoured with paving stones are Private Harold Whitfield, of Oswestry, who won the award in 1918 while serving in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry; Lieutenant Thomas Wilkinson, who was born at Dudmaston, near Bridgnorth, and won the VC on July 5, 1916, at La Boiselle on the Somme; and Able Seaman William Charles Williams, who was born in Stanton Lacy and won the VC at Gallipoli on April 25, 1915.

Harold Whitfield was the only soldier of the KSLI to win the Victoria Cross in the Great War.

He was in the 10th Battalion and won the Victoria Cross on March 10, 1918, fighting against the Turks.

He charged and captured a Lewis gun position, bayoneted or shot the whole team, and then turned the Lewis gun on the enemy.

Later he organised and led a bombing attack and drove the enemy back.

Promoted to Sergeant in the field, he was presented the medal by the King in Leeds.

Neither Wilkinson nor Williams were living in Shropshire at the time of their awards.

Wilkinson had emigrated to Canada and Williams was brought up at Chepstow.

War

Wilkinson, born at Lodge Farm, Dudmaston, emigrated to Vancouver Island in 1913, and enlisted with the Canadian Army on the outbreak of war.

Lieutenant Wilkinson was later commissioned into the 7th Battalion The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment and was awarded the VC after dashing forwards to man a machinegun and hold up the enemy, and also for attempting to reach a wounded man, during which he was shot through the heart.

He was 22.

As for William Williams, he was the first Royal Navy rating to be awarded the Victoria Cross for over 50 years, and the first naval posthumous award.

For over an hour he stood in chest deep water under murderous fire trying to secure a makeshift bridge taking troops ashore at Gallipoli.

Eventually he was hit by a shell and died soon afterwards. He was 34.

Captivity

Yate was said at the time of his award to have died of wounds in captivity.

In fact he may have been captured unwounded – there is a picture which shows him standing grumpily among his captors. He escaped from the prison camp but was rumbled and set on by hostile German peasants on their way to work at a local factory.

Modern research points to him having slit his throat with a cut-throat razor to avoid recapture.

WORKING FOR YOU

Last week, the Department of Energy and Climate Change announced that the long awaited decision on the public inquiry into five wind farms in Mid Wales will be delayed until after the General Election.

This is very good news for those of us who have been opposing the massive new power lines proposed by National Grid from North Shropshire to Cefn Coch in Montgomeryshire (known as the Mid Wales Connection Project).

The public inquiry ended in the summer, and the inspector presented his report to the Minister at DECC on December 8. We will now have to wait until at least June.

Let's summarise what's involved. It's far far more than just five wind farms. If all the wind farms involved in the inquiry are approved by the Minister, it would trigger the building of the power lines. There is simply not enough capacity in existing lines connecting Mid Wales to the Grid in Shropshire to accommodate all of them.

But the new line will create capacity for much, much more – about 500 new turbines.

There are already around 20 other new wind farm proposals in the pipeline if the Mid Wales Connection Project goes ahead. Some see wind farms on this huge scale as good.

No doubt, a great deal of money would be injected into farm businesses where these wind farms would be built.

It's also the case that the developers are giving large sums of money to local communities as what they euphemistically refer to as 'community benefit'.

I have been an implacable opponent of the scale of this development since it was first proposed by the Welsh Government in 2005.

It would industrialise our much loved wondrous upland landscapes. And the construction period would extend over many years, causing massive disturbance to the lives of local communities.

My hope is that the wind farm applications lose their appeal.

This would kill the Mid Wales Connection Project stone dead. I hope we will have even more delays, creating an opportunity for the next Government to end this outrageous subsidy bonanza. And all the costs are being added to our electricity bills.

When I was elected an MP in 2010, I promised I would do all in my power to end the wind farm madness.

In partnership with local protesters, we have put up a mighty fight.

I will never step back from this fight until we defeat this monster that threatens us.

Glyn Davies
Montgomeryshire MP

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IS IT TRUE THAT RESIDENTIAL LANDLORDS CAN BE HELD LIABLE FOR TENANTS' BEHAVIOUR?

Q: I have five rental properties which I manage myself as I am retired and don't want to incur letting agency fees. Two of the properties are holiday lets and three have long term tenants. Until now I have not had any concerns about dealing direct with tenants myself, but I have heard a couple of worrying things recently that are making me reconsider. The first was that landlords can now be held responsible for noisy tenants and the second was that landlords are now being held responsible for doing immigration checks if the tenant is not a UK national. Are these things true?

A: Taking the noise issue first, a district judge in Dorset recently upheld a noise abatement notice handed to the letting agent for a holiday homes management business, following a string of complaints about one of her properties on her books. The owner appealed but the judge dismissed the appeal, holding the agent accountable for the disturbances. His ruling means that both landlords and letting agents may now be held accountable if complaints are made about groups staying in their houses and if they contravene a noise abatement order they can incur a fine of up to 20,000. So this could be a good time to have a lawyer check over your letting contracts.

Regarding immigration checks, on 1st December 2014 a Home Office pilot scheme was launched in the West Midlands, making landlords responsible for checking the identity and citizenship of tenants. Under the Immigration Act 2014 landlords in that region now need to see a passport or biometric residence permit. Following the evaluation of the West Midlands scheme this Spring it is anticipated that the Home Office will then continue with the phased introduction of checks right across the UK.

Further information relating to this question is available from Richard Lloyd, a Partner with GHP Legal.
For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194 or visit www.ghplegal.com
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Answers required to my questions

LAST year I wrote to the planning department at Shirehall, with questions regarding an application for exploratory drilling for shale gas at Dudleston.

I asked for a response from each councillor on the planning committee, ahead of February 17's behind closed doors planning meeting.

I found that not one planning councillor has responded. I rang and spoke to them, a spokesman's response was: "I can't recall seeing it." Which begs the question from me: "Were any of them actually shown my letter?"

I feel the questions I asked need answers, which are: How to you de-methane the ozone layer? How do you clean an aquifer once it has been contaminated? How do you take radon or uranium out of fracked water? How do you take water back once it has been fracked? How can you condone turning millions of gallons of clean water into toxic waste? How can you condone the creating of millions of gallons of toxic waste to be disposed of?

How can you stop toxic waste from blowing over communities close to fracking sites? How can you stop leaking pipes? How can you stop cement well failure? How can you stop spills? How would you tell a parent it will be safe and you can put a drill rig close to a school or home?

How can you stop the disasters here, when we are allowing the same shortcuts and mistakes that are the same as in the USA and Australia?

How confident are you that our regulators know more than those countries who are drilling, where they have been doing it for years and still wells fail and communities suffer?

I feel that, as a council tax payer, that I am entitled to have my questions answered!

PIP DAVIES
Oswestry

Image of town taken more than 50 years ago

Take a close look at this panorama of Oswestry taken from the top of the parish church tower, and then make a guess at how long ago it was taken. Did you say 20 years? If you did, you're way out – it dates from September 21, 1964, over 50 years ago.

Bonds scheme is alternative to using the bank

THE 65plus Pensioner Bond Scheme has been dismissed by some as a voting gimmick at the taxpayers' expense, although those of us taking up the option had more in mind a protest vote against the banks.

The £15bn expected to be invested has come out of the banks and building societies whose attitude to savers has been derisory. Without exception they have chased the Help to Buy mortgage market, where Government guarantees are given for up to 95 per cent of loans, which in other words means a taxpayers' guarantee.

Hard earned savings from a lifetime of taxed income has instead gone straight to the Exchequer at nil cost. Upon maturity of our Bonds, the cash is repaid net after a further slice of income tax is deducted and in the long term, when it comes to Social Welfare care, we will be assessed as self-funding and of no further drain on future generations.

I had no previous intention of voting for George Osborne's party and still haven't.

CHRIS BARFF
Shrewsbury

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Readers' Letters,
Oswestry Chronicle,
Ketley,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

The answer to rubbish issue

I WONDER if the answer to reducing fly-tipping is something that the council used to do a fair few years ago, which was depositing a very large skip in an area in the suburbs for a week so that residents could dispose of their rubbish legally.

This may at first seem expensive in this time of austerity, but surely in the long run would be more cost effective than the local council having to run everywhere to clear up the illegally dumped rubbish.

SHARON NEVILLE
Shrewsbury

What is next to be taken from our hospital?

THE Telford Labour MP David Wright has launched a petition urging health bosses to keep A&E services in Telford.

He ignores the vast area of Shropshire to the north and west of Telford which is in need of hospital services.

I admire David Wright, he is fighting for his constituents but what of us suffering constituents of Owen Paterson and Daniel Kawczynski?

I don't hear them launching petitions or indeed doing anything very effective to support the retention of A&E in Shrewsbury or to counter the movement of services away from the RSH.

Both Owen and Daniel have complained about services in Wrexham.

He ignores the fact that many of us are glad to go to Wrexham because of its close proximity to Oswestry.

We have already lost women's and children's services to Telford.

How much more will they take from Shrewsbury?

G E DAVIES
Oswestry

Introduce the skips to help ease problem of fly-tipping

FOLLOWING the report that fly-tipping had increased by a fifth last year some were claiming that it was due to bins being emptied less frequently.

In my experience the majority of fly-tipping is of larger items like mattresses, three piece suites, white goods and garden rubbish that would not fit into a recycling bin.

Many householders have a problem especially if they do not have a car. Because local authorities have been forced (understandably) to charge for these collections residents are refusing to pay.

Genuine people can't pay these amounts and won't and I don't blame them one bit. Responsible people hold on to them for a while until they can be removed, but some don't and resort to fly-tipping. To obtain a prosecution the courts need evidence, but even with expensive cameras fitted it has still been difficult to get.

In some areas this has become a game with perpetrators dumping under the cover of darkness anywhere they can and beating the cameras. Sadly this has resulted in very few prosecutions where a few hefty fines would have acted as a deterrent.

Local authorities are legally bound to remove rubbish because of health and safety regulations and invariably others will add to it. I am convinced that the reintroduction of well-publicised conveniently placed community skips are the answer. In the area where I live this year we have seen it work. In May two large skips were filled by residents within two hours and this was repeated in October with a further four tons of rubbish as people cleared their gardens, sheds and garages of unwanted items. The problem in the past with this service was that unscrupulous traders used the skips to off-load their waste rather than take it to the recycling depot and so there became a safety issue with unmanned skips. I believe that this could be overcome if necessary by local volunteers who could supervise the skips for two hours.

ROY WHITTALL
Shrewsbury

Grant should not have been kept

SHROPSHIRE Council has decided to "keep" the council tax support grant that the Government gave the parish and town councils to help keep their council taxes low.

Who thought of the idea?
Who proposed it?
And who seconded it?

I can't believe that people are that mean these days.

What would happen if the public kept money in our banks instead of paying the bills?

We would soon have people banging on the front door.

When these councillors come banging on our front door for our vote, we should stand firm and not vote for them.

We are told "we are in it all together".

Though it is not altogether in this case.

JENNIFER ASTLEY
Oswestry

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NEWS IN BRIEF

New officers are set to be elected

OSWESTRY Chamber of Commerce will be electing several new officers including a new chairperson at its annual general meeting next month.

There are 10 positions available on the executive committee and all paid-up members are eligible to vote or stand for election.

Current chairwoman Heather Noble said: "We are keen to encourage members old and new to get involved and contribute to the future of Oswestry Chamber of Commerce.

"I shall be standing down after two years as chairman and a number of current officers will not be standing again so the time has come for fresh eyes and ears to bring a new perspective to our business community.

The closing date for nominations is 5pm on Friday next week.

The annual general meeting takes place on April 1 at the Wynnstay Hotel in Oswestry.

For more information people should send an email to info@oswestrychamber.org.uk.

MP meeting will focus on health

A MEETING will be held to discuss healthcare issues within Montgomeryshire tonight. (Thursday)

The meeting has been called by Glyn Davies, MP for Montgomeryshire, and will be held at Newtown's Monty Club at 7pm.

There will be the opportunity for any resident to discuss their views and concerns over the future provision of healthcare within Mid Wales.

Mr Davies said: "It is vital that residents have their say on their access to healthcare, and this meeting will be an opportunity for any Montgomeryshire resident to discuss their experiences and concerns."

Youngsters organise pirate ship fundraiser

Report by Pam Kingsley

MORE than 100 children scooted and cycled their way around their school playground to raise funds to build a pirate ship.

The event was organised by the older pupils on the eco committee at Carreghofa School in Llanymynech.

Foundation Stage youngsters took part in the fundraiser initially and the event was repeated when the older children had a chance to take part.

Headteacher Claire Pritchard said the pupils had done all the planning themselves. She said: "We're looking at buying a pirate ship to improve the playground and that's what the children wanted.

"It was organised by the eco club and they asked the other children what they wanted for the playground. Once they'd decided they wanted equipment they asked the other pupils for ideas of what the design should be like.

"After they decided exactly what they wanted, they talked about it and decided they needed to do a sponsored something to raise the money, so they decided to get out their bikes and scooters. They all have their own bikes or scooters and they love riding them."

Sponsorship money is still coming in from the scooter and bike challenge.

Mrs Pritchard added: "The weather was brilliant and they all had a great time.

"The whole school has taken part and it was fantastic."

The school has previously raised money for other good causes in the past.

Chosen charitie such as Comic Relief and Children in Need have been supported through sponsored events and sales.

The youngsters used scooters and bikes to raise sponsor money for their new pirate ship

Inspection's results are welcomed

GOVERNORS and staff at Woodside School in Oswestry say they are delighted with the outcome of their recent Ofsted inspection.

The school was described as at least good in all areas and outstanding in some. Pupils' behaviour and safety is 'outstanding', inspectors said, and children had "excellent attitudes to learning".

The relationship between teachers and children was also described as excellent and teachers had high expectations of what children could achieve.

Inspectors also said "the most able pupils are making good progress". "The school has done incredibly well," said Alan Cooper, chair of governors. "The inspection confirms our own views of how good the school is. Good schools need good leadership, and we know that headteacher Rob McDevitt and his staff provide that. Inspectors said 'the atmosphere in the school is one of high expectation'. That's how we see it too."

Rob McDevitt said: "Of course there is always work to be done and we will continue to work on areas where we know we can improve, but the whole staff is very pleased and encouraged by this report."

Court date over blackmail claim

A MAN will appear at crown court next week to enter a plea for an accusation of blackmail.

Welshpool Magistrates' Court heard on Tuesday that Ian Ashley Jones, 23, is charged with making a demand for money with menaces on February 19.

No plea was entered and the case was committed to Mold Crown Court on March 27.

Jones, of Brook Street, Welshpool, was granted bail.

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The wheelchair rugby demonstration was staged at Packwood Haugh School

Roy Humphreys and Ayaz Bhuta in action during the demonstration

Tom shows skills

TOM Baines may be just 12-years-old but he already has his sights set on Tokyo 2020 and a medal in the Paralympics.

The youngest person ever to be allowed to play wheelchair rugby at league level, Tom played for the first time in front of his friends at Packwood Haugh School at Ruyton-XI-Towns near Oswestry and the cheers raised the roof when he scored.

He joined team mates from the Rygbi Gogledd Cymru wheelchair rugby team and a star of the GB team, Ayaz Bhuta, in exhibition matches at the school to demonstrate the sport.

Report by Sue Austin

Ayaz was voted top player in the Wheelchair Rugby World Championships held in Denmark last August and was part of the gold medal winning GB wheelchair rugby team at the first ever Invictus Games.

Tom, who plays in defence and has a special 'bullbar' on his wheelchair to collide with other chairs to prevent goals, said it had been a great day.

"I have never played in front of my friends before – they were cheering when I did well and when I scored a goal," he said.

"I am training hard and would like to get to the 2020 Paralympics in Tokyo."

He began playing wheelchair rugby when he was just six years old, a year after he suffered a spine injury. His father Mark introduced him to the sport and joined in during the session at the school.

Tom Baines and dad Mark Baines show off their skills during the wheelchair rugby demonstration at Packwood Haugh School

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Canal litter pick will take place

VOLUNTEERS are being urged to take part in a tidy-up this weekend.

A litter pick along the Montgomery Canal in the Welshpool area has been organised and will take place on Saturday

Organisers said volunteers will be very welcome.

People should meet by 10.30am at Welshpool Town Wharf when the Canal and River Trust staff will be available to hand out equipment.

Free light refreshments will be available at the lunchtime finish. Special parking arrangements will be available near the wharf area.

The event has been organised by the Friends of the Montgomery Canal. For more details visit www.montgomerycanal.me.uk

Premises could soon be occupied

THE former Spar shop in the centre of Welshpool could be brought back into use after a potential new owner was found.

The building has been empty since the shop closed in August last year, but a spokeswoman for Halls estate agents, which is marketing the shop for sale or to let, confirmed that the property is now under offer.

She said it typically takes six weeks to complete a sale. The Spar, in Church Street, had been trading in the town for more than 50 years.

Councillors suggested the arrival of the new Tesco on the outskirts of the town and the introduction of a one-way system were to blame for the Spar's closure. Up to six jobs were lost when it closed.

Railway preparing for another busy season

Report by Pam Kingsley

STAFF and volunteers of the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway have been busy over the winter preparing for the new running season which is due to start at Easter.

The railway held its traditional February workshop week, which saw a number of volunteers descend upon Llanfair Caereinion to boost the winter maintenance on the locomotives.

This year they came from near and far, the closest from Llanfair itself and the furthest from Canada, to spend up to a week working on the railway.

Highlights of the week included making a replacement chimney for the 1902-built locomotive No. 1 'The Earl' and a new ashpan for No. 12 'Joan', built in 1927.

Work was also carried out to continue the restoration of No. 10 'Sir Drefaldwyn', which it is hoped will return to steam later in 2015 after 15 years out of service.

Meanwhile the railway's dedicated track gang has been busy on essential renewals which can only be carried out in the winter months while the railway is closed.

And a small group of members spent a weekend giving the carriages a deep clean ready to welcome the first customers of the new season at Easter.

The railway will open for its 2015 season on March 28.

The railway will stage The Great Easter Eggspress over the Easter weekend.

Frosty days have been normal for the hardy team working out on the railway track

Companies' eisteddfod opportunity

LOCAL food and drink producers and retailers are being offered the chance to showcase their products at the National Eisteddfod of Wales which takes place in Meifod in August.

Powys County Council is calling on interested businesses to get in touch and complete a simple expression of interest form to be in with a chance of securing a spot at the show.

A food produce marquee called Y Pantri is being set up on the Maes and local businesses are being sought and encouraged to promote their locally produced food products.

Interested food businesses will also be able to showcase their skills by running product or cookery demonstrations.

Councillor Avril York said: "The National Eisteddfod of Wales makes a welcome return to Powys this year and offers the perfect opportunity for our food businesses to promote and sell their locally sourced products to visitors who come from across Wales and further afield."

People interested should visit www.powys.gov.uk/haveyoursay and click on the Stallholder Expression of Interest Survey.

Group to hold annual meeting

THE annual general meeting of Welshpool's Get Going Gang will be held on Thursday next week. at 7pm at Welshpool Fire Station.

Anyone willing to take the voluntary group over should contact Liz Gannon on (01938) 555269 or email lizgannon1958@hotmail.co.uk

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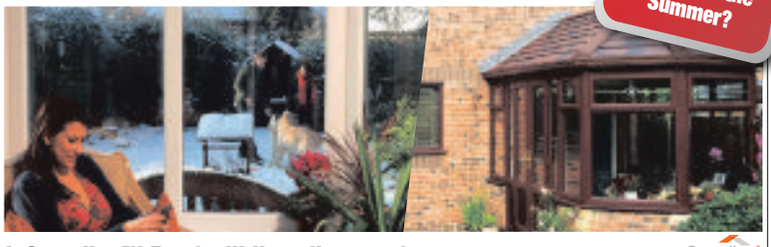

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Family to mark success of charity by staging party

THE parents of a four-year-old girl who successfully battled a brain tumour will be hosting a party to celebrate the first anniversary of the charity the family set up to raise awareness of brain tumours in children.

Report by Sue Austin

Rebecca Wynne, who grew up in Whittington near Oswestry, set up the Isabelle Lottie Foundation with husband Gareth after their daughter Izzy was diagnosed and successfully treated for a rare brain tumour.

The charity raises money for projects and equipment to help others who have to undergo the gruelling treatment which Izzy endured and to also raise awareness of the symptoms of a brain tumour in youngsters.

The charity has raised a total of £70,000 since it was launched in March last year, including £53,000 from supporters of Amy Hughes who ran 53 marathons in 53 days. Amy's fundraising is continuing for the foundation. Mr and Mrs Wynne, who live in Wrexham, are hosting the anniversary party at The Wynnstay Hotel in Oswestry on March 28. The event will include a two course dinner, entertainment by The Rhythm Train, a raffle and an auction. Mrs Wynne, whose parents Lyn and Ian Johnson still live in Whittington, said: "The last 12 months has been a phenomenal roller-coaster for us as a family and for the charity.We wanted to mark this success with a first anniversary party and felt my hometown of Oswestry was the perfect place due to the huge support the people of the town have offered to the charity and of course to Amy's marathon success."

Tickets to the party cost £30 each and raffle tickets cost £1. Tickets can be bought and raffle and auction prizes can be offered by contacting www.facebook.com/theisabellelottiefoundation or emailing theisabellelottiefoundation@gmail.com.

Rebecca Wynne with four year old Izzy in her arms with Benedetta Pettorini, Izzy's neurosurgeon

Mountain walk for ramblers

HEATHER Smith will lead the Welshpool Ramblers Group on Sunday for a moderate grade walk of about seven miles around Llantysilio Mountain.

The going is fairly steep but mostly on good paths.

People should meet at 10.30am at The Sun Inn at Rhewl (OS Ref: SJ 178448). All are welcome, but no dogs are allowed on the walk. For further information contact (01691) 656541 or (01743) 884930

Jim Rowley led a group of seven Welshpool Ramblers on March 8 for a six mile circular walk from Tregynon village.

Due to ground conditions over much of the route, the intended destination of Gwgia Reservoir was abandoned in favour of a 'smaller circle' which nevertheless still provided much of the original itinerary.

Although the first part of the day was damp and dull, the afternoon improved significantly.

Pre-school is outstanding say inspectors

A PRE-SCHOOL in Llanymynech is celebrating its 30th birthday in style after being given an outstanding rating by Ofsted inspectors.

Border Pre-School had improved since being rated good at its last inspection, and was deemed outstanding in all three categories – meeting the needs of the children, the well-being of the children, and leadership and management.

Sandra Hayward, the team leader, has been at the preschool for 23 years along with fellow staff member Wendy Mottershead.

She said: "The announcement of the inspection was quickly followed by tears of joy from staff. It's just nice to have recognition for all of our hard work. We have certainly seen lots of changes over the years, now we can say we are at the height of our careers.

"We are a team of staff that have a genuine love of early years which helps to create an atmosphere where children feel safe, happy and are ready to learn. We really are lucky to have a first class quality pre-school that serves the local community."

Ofsted inspectors described the pre-school as "a haven of excitement and enjoyment" with excellent staff and good facilities available for the children to use.

Their report says: "The pre-school is a haven of excitement and enjoyment. Staff create an enchanting family atmosphere that encourage children to learn, while they play alongside their friends and staff.

"The quality of teaching is inspirational. Staff provide children with extremely high levels of challenge and stimulation, and parents praise staff for their caring nature and how this helps to settle children into the pre-school."

Businessman is fined over defects

A BUSINESS owner has been fined £2,000 after allowing one of his vehicles to be driven with defects.

Martin Evans of Llangedwyn asked his nephew Samual Edward Davies to collect metal beams on October 6 and transport them.

But Welshpool Magistrates Court heard Davies, 18, was stopped by police who found a number of issues with the trailer.

Evans, 50, admitted nine charges relating to the condition of the trailer and the way it had been loaded, including problems with its brakes, having a tyre which had worn down to the ply, and not securing the load well enough.

He also admitted not having the correct operator's licence to use the trailer for carrying the beams, and not having a record sheet for the driver.

He was fined £2,000 and ordered to pay a £40 surcharge.

Davies, also of Llangedwyn, who was 17 at the time he was stopped, also admitted the nine charges relating to the trailer's condition and the way it had been loaded. He was fined £100 and ordered to pay a £20 surcharge.

The men were given three points each on their driving licenses and ordered to pay £85 costs each.

Huw Williams, for Evans, said: "That trailer is usually only used in a three-week period every year to haul hay and straw and so is not regularly maintained. All the other 66 appliances Mr Evans owns are maintained properly."

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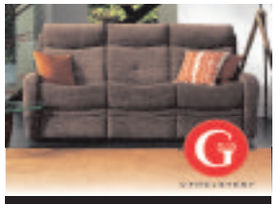

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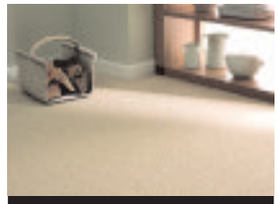

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Banks backing website idea

A MATHS teacher-turned-entrepreneur has landed the backing of Natwest and RBS banks by beating hundreds of other entrepreneurs to launch a new website dedicated to promoting properties ripe for renovation.

Sarah Pugh, 27, from Nesscliffe, thought up the idea of Renovate Me while she was renovating one of her own properties last year.

She said: "I just thought there seemed to be an opportunity to create a website to showcase properties with potential. Saving people like me time by not needing to trawl through the usual property websites.

"I used to spend hours doing it and that could be time actually spent on having the property in your hands and actually working on it."

She entered the Entrepreneurial Spark competition where, after several rounds of interviews, she landed the backing and support of the banks. That backing has allowed her to get her website off the ground and has provided networking opportunities.

Cabinet member leaves his role

A COUNCILLOR has stepped down from his place in Powys County Council's cabinet for health reasons.

Cabinet member for finance Councillor Dai Davies, who had been a portfolio holder since January 2014, has left the cabinet.

Councillor Davies said: "I have enjoyed my time on the cabinet despite the very difficult financial climate and feel satisfied that the annual budget was brought in on time without any overspend.

"I thank the council's finance service for their hard work during my period of office."

Border crossing patients 'bring funds pressures'

Report by Wayne Beese

A LEADING Shropshire health chief has admitted treating increasing numbers of patients from Wales is leading to "increased financial pressures".

Studies by Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) show a near nine per cent increase in the number of people coming over the border for treatment at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital's A&E or at one of the county's Minor Injury Units (MIUs).

The document claims it is costing the CCG an extra £700,000 a year.

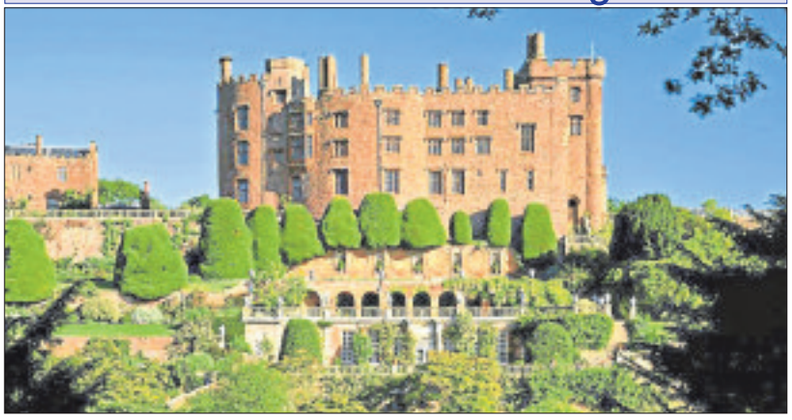
The CCG's chief accountable officer Dr Caron Morton said: "There are an increasing number of patients from Wales currently receiving treatments in Shropshire. This is leading to increased financial pressures."

Shrewsbury MP Daniel Kawczysnki has written to Welsh health minister Mark Drakeford to outline his concerns about the increasing number of Welsh patients using Shropshire healthcare services.

His views have been echoed by Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies, who said the Welsh Assembly should pay for the treatment over the border.

The study found that over the past two years the numbers of English patients accessing Wrexham Maelor Hospital has fallen from 180-190 people per month to 130 per month. The number of Welsh patients attending English MIUs has grown from 70 to 100 people per month. – primarily due to the opening of the primary care centre in Oswestry and the closure of the MIU in Chirk, Mr Kawcynski said.

Book commends castle's gardens



The gardens of Powis Castle near Welshpool have won fans from throughout the world

THE magnificent terraced gardens at Powis Castle have been named among the best gardens in Wales in a new book.

The Finest Gardens in Wales features 50 of the country's best loved gardens and has been compiled by garden writer and broadcaster Tony Russell, a former head forester of Westonbirt Arboretum in Gloucestershire. The book is a celebration of the very best gardens in Wales, covering their history, design, plants and personalities.

Mr Russell said: "I am really excited about this book which has been over two years in the making.

"Wales contains some of the finest gardens in the UK, but until now they have never all been celebrated within one book."

The gardens at Powis are often described as one of the greatest surviving examples of Baroque garden design in Britain with its Italianate terraces, woodland, Edwardian formal garden and 30ft high yew hedge.

Meeting is told of cost of council's consultants

MORE than £1.3 million has been spent on consultants by Powys County Council in just 11 months and the cost of agencies is still to be added, councillors have heard.

A range of consultants have been employed by the council from March 2014 until the end of February this year at a total cost of £1,334,477, it has been revealed.

But the county council also uses agencies such as Hoople and Randstad and their costs are not included in these figures.

The Leader of Powys County Council, Councillor Barry Thomas, has promised to make the cost of agencies available to County Councillor Gwilym Williams, who raised the issue.

Councillor Thomas also told members that he will be taking a paper to the Cabinet asking it to consider where a consultancy cost is over £10,000, that the head of service and the portfolio holder should have to sign off the agreement.

The largest single consultancy payment was made to Capita Property and Infrastructure Ltd of £199,588 for works in the highways, transport and recycling sector but consultants were employed in adult services and commissioning, business services, change and governance, corporate activities, highways, housing, leisure, professional service, regeneration, and schools.

The cost of the consultants was highlighted by Councillor Williams, who asked for the costs at a full council meeting on Friday.

Councillor Williams said he and many people in his constituency were concerned about the number of consultants being employed by the council.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Portraits set to go on display

AN exhibition of portraits by Powys artist Francine Isaacs is to go on display at Llanfyllin Workhouse.

Francine was commissioned by the Green Hub to research and document 'green champions', highlighting the role of people acting locally to combat climate change.

Potential candidates were photographed in a variety of locations and interviewed in order to capture the reasons behind their chosen sustainable activities. The resulting portraits, with accompanying text, are those shown in the exhibition.

Francine said: "The aim was to create a positive and inspirational mood, reflecting a variety of ways that local people are actively contributing to sustainable enterprises and projects."

The exhibition will open in the Meadows Gallery on Sunday and run until April 10. The Green Hub is a locally led project established in 2013 in response to the national State of Nature report highlighting the drastic impact on the UK's flora and fauna due to climate change.

School spade day was big success

A "BRING a spade to school" day at St John the Baptist CE Primary School at Ruyton-XI-Towns saw more than 400 trees planted in woodland in the village.

As part of their wide and varied curriculum, the children have the use of a forest school woodland in the village.

Following a donation from the Woodland Trust, the pupils planted a wide variety of trees.

The whole school took part in the event which was also well supported by parents who were able to come along and help out. The pupils learnt about the different types of trees.

Town could be site for thousands of homes

Report by Pam Kingsley

THOUSANDS of homes could be built over the next 15 years in Chirk

Wrexham County Borough Council has said it needs up to 13,000 homes and 61 hectares of employment land up to 2028, and has earmarked Chirk as one of the potential locations for some of this development.

Residents are invited to comment on the Vision and Strategic Growth Options plan by April 10.

Helen Howie, of planning consultancy Berrys, said Wrexham is forecast to have the second highest population growth rate in Wales, according to the Welsh Assembly Government's population projections.

But she said development could be a good thing.

"We would encourage all local residents, businesses and landowners to consider the opportunities this opens for them," she said.

"We would encourage people to speak up for the future of their villages. Without growth the villages will continue to leak vitality and become ever more dated. To revitalise our villages we need positive investment.

"The Local Development Plan could encourage positive change for the better."

On average, 287 homes a year were built over 2009 to 2014 in Wrexham County Borough. The new Local Development Plan 2013 to 2028 proposes a much higher rate of at least 670 dwellings per annum.

Mrs Howie said this growth could be directed to key areas such as Chirk, Cefn Wawr, Rhosllanerchrugog, Coedpoeth, Gwersyllt and Gresford/Marford.

LitFest inspires gallery exhibition

Sofi Reading from the Willow Gallery takes a look at some of the artwork in the exhibition

THEY say a picture paints a thousand words, but an art gallery is hoping to inspire people to pick up a book with its new exhibition to coincide with Oswestry's LitFest.

The Painting With Words exhibition at the Willow Gallery in Oswestry features a variety of work celebrating the influence and inspiration of literature and language on the visual arts.

Work from a wide variety of artists in a range of media is on display, including pieces by collagraph artist Judith Harrison and metalsmith Sara Piper Heap.

Gallery manager Anthony Smith said: "The Willow Gallery is delighted by the response to our latest exhibition 'Painting with Words.' Using the theme of literature and language, local artists have responded with a wealth of materials and subject exploration." The exhibition will run until April 11. A series of workshops will also be held at the gallery to coincide with LitFest.

Gas drilling firm calls for rethink on inquiry

ENERGY bosses who hope to drill for gas in north Shropshire have called on the planning inspectorate not to hold an appeal in public.

A public inquiry will be held into an appeal by Dart Energy, which hopes to operate an exploratory borehole for coal bed methane extraction in Dudleston Heath, between St Martins and Ellesmere. The firm appealed against the decision made by Shropshire Council over the length of time it took the authority to reach a decision.

But Dart Energy now wants planning inspectors to "reconsider" holding the appeal through a public inquiry. Darren Hendley, planning consultant for the firm, said the company is "concerned and surprised" with the decision to hold the inquiry, rather than an appeal using written representations.

He said: "The decision appears to be based on the amount of third party representations made to the planning application and the number of representations made to the appeal."

But Mr Hendley said that the majority of public objections are about fracking – a method of shale gas extraction that Dart has insisted it will not be carrying out on site.

He added that objectors are also concerned about topics that are "wholly irrelevant" to the appeal. The firm has formally requested the planning inspectorate reconsiders the process. Leader of campaign group Frack Free Dudleston, Chris Hesketh said: "It would be an injustice and unfair on the public to have only written representations. Under the public inquiry, we are able to have a representation who will have an equal amount of time to speak as the energy company and the council."

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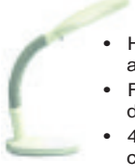

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Company boosts hospice's coffers

STAFF at one of the region's biggest estate agents have raised more than £250 for the Severn Hospice in memory of a colleague.

The team at Morris, Marshall and Poole's offices in Mid Wales and Shropshire dressed up in all things Christmassy back in December to raise the cash and handed it over to Chris Bailey, manager of the hospice's Welshpool shop. "Members of the team have been raising money for the hospice over the past year in memory of Yvonne Carroll who worked at our Newtown office and sadly passed away at the Severn Hospice after her battle against breast cancer," said Kate Pinder from the firm

"Before Christmas we all decided to dress up in festive fancy dress while at work and staff, customers and neighbouring businesses all chipped in to raise the money."

Staff at the company's offices in Newtown, Welshpool, Llanidloes, Machynlleth, Aberystwyth, Shrewsbury, Oswestry and Tywyn took part.

Plans are laid for Easter fun

EGG hunts and window displays will form part of Welshpool's Easter celebrations this year.

The town council will be handing out clues to find chocolate eggs between Good Friday and Easter Monday at the Tourist Information Centre. Anyone who successfully completes the trail on those days and finds all 12 egg clues will be able to claim a chocolatey prize if they return their card by 4pm.

Shops and market stalls will be getting into the spirit as well with a display competition. The town council is inviting the shops and market stalls to dress their windows.

Circus family looking forward to home visit

Report by Pam Kingsley

ONE of the youngest jugglers in Europe will be performing in front of her grandparents for the first time when the circus rolls into Oswestry

Circus Funtasia, run by Tracey Jones from Oswestry, will be setting up its big top in the town.

And her daughter Nia, 11, will be opening the show with a bang as she juggles clubs around the ring.

The show, which will be staged at Park Hall Showground from Wednesday until March 29, will be a family affair as Nia's father, Tracey's Bulgarian acrobat husband Julio Nikolov, will take to the arena twice with Troupe Julio. He will be performing on the Russian swing and then in the fast track in an act apparently performed by the Seven Dwarfs. Tracey, 47, was born in Welshpool, lived in Llanymynech and Pant and was schooled in Oswestry.

But at the age of 16 she decided to leave her family and friends and work for the circus. After a career which has seen her travel the globe, she formed Circus Funtasia with Julio in 2013.

"It's great to be bringing the show to my home town," she said. "My parents Gary and Elyned Jones are both really excited.

There are no animal acts in the show, which lasts 95 minutes inside in a heated big top. But there is more than enough excitement to entertain the crowds.

Before the circus comes to Oswestry it will be at Moat Farm, Welshpool, until Sunday.

The box office will be open on site throughout the run and tickets are also available by calling 0844 844 0444.

Tracy Jones from Oswestry is bringing her Circus Funtasia to the town

Group gets tips from the experts

AMATEUR actors have teamed up with none other than the Royal Shakespeare Company to put on their latest production.

Coaches, used to working with stars like David Tennant and Jane Lapotaire, ran workshops for members of the Llanymynech Amateur Dramatic Society, giving tips on directing, voice and even stage combat.

The results will be seen in the group's production of The Taming of the Shrew this weekend

The society, known as the LADS, was selected to take part in the RSC's Open Stages project which offered help to amateur companies putting on Shakespeare plays.

The Taming of the Shrew will be on stage at Llanymynech Village Hall tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday at 7.45pm.

It will also be performed on Sunday at 3pm at the village hall.

Tickets are available from (01691) 658032.

The performance will also be staged at the Kinoculture Cinema in Oswestry on the weekend of March 27-28 at 7.45pm.

Tickets for those performances are available from 0845 2500517.

Party will mark end of conflict

A PARTY marking the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War will be held for senior citizens in Welshpool

Organiser Alan Crowe said his annual New Year Party was so successful that he will hold another party on May 12. The event will be held at the town hall in Broad Street.

Tickets for the event are now available from Welshpool Jewellers and Flaunt It card shop.

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Lions' festival will tickle your real ale taste buds

Advertising Feature

THE Lions Club of Oswestry, going from strength to strength, are hosting their seventh annual Real Ale Festival at the Memorial Hall, Smithfield Street (Red Square), Oswestry.

It takes place on Friday, March 27, from 5pm to 11pm, Saturday, March 28 from noon until 11pm and Sunday, March 29 from noon to 4pm.

The club plans again to have a wide variety of sensational real ales, all supplied by local breweries.

The list includes, of course, Oswestry's own Stonehouse brewery who are again playing a major role in sourcing the beers, providing specialist equipment and supporting the event.

The club has also had help and support from the Shropshire branch of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale).

In addition to real ales, the festival will again have a supply of cider, wine and soft drinks and food will also be available.

The price of entry remains the same as last year at £7 for the day, entitling the ticket holder to his or her first four half pints, and a 2015 commemorative glass tankard engraved in glittering orange colour to use and keep afterwards to add to their collection.

Programmes can be purchased giving details and tasting notes of all the ales.Lions Clubs like Oswestry's are well known throughout the world for the enormous contributions they make to good causes, supporting individuals in need and local charities, as well as coming to the help of those struck by natural and other catastrophes, and funding worldwide health projects.

Clive Humphries pours an ale during last year's festival

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Entrants must be 18 years or over. Closing date for entries is 25th March 2015. The first five correct entries selected at random after the closing date will each receive a pair of tickets to the festival on 27th, 28th & 29th March 2015. The winners will be notified by post. There are no cash alternatives and the prizes are non-transferable. Transport is not included. Employees (or immediate relatives) of the MNA group of companies/Oswestry Lions Club may NOT enter. The Editor's decision is final. The winners must be prepared to take part in any relevant publicity.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Crews called out to house blaze

FIREFIGHTERS were called to a blaze at a house in Arddleen near Llanymynech.

Crews were called to the home off the B4392 at about 6pm on Sunday.

The roof was severely damaged and the occupants managed to escape and there were no injuries.

In another fire, bales of hay went up in flames in a field near Ellesmere.

The fire, involving 35 bales, happened at Crosmere. Two crews from Ellesmere and Wem attended at 4.30pm on Sunday.

Meanwhile a quad bike rider was taken to hospital after the fire service rescued him from woods in Mid Wales.

The incident took place near Berriew on Thursday last week. The ambulance service requested assistance from firefighters at 11.56am, to help retrieve the individual from a wooded area.

One crew from Montgomery attended the incident, in the Vaynor Park area, before the rider was taken to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Consultation over road plan

A CONSULTATION has opened into proposed waiting restrictions on a busy town centre road in Oswestry after worries about drivers parking at the entrance to a new housing development.

Shropshire Council wants to put double yellow lines along Victoria Road for about 100 feet outside the converted Victoria Rooms apartments.

Full details of these proposals are available at shropshire.gov.uk/traffic and comments on the plans can be made by email to traffic.engineering@shropshire.gov.uk or by calling 0345 678 9006. The consultation will end on April 7.

Trench war art goes on display at library

Report by Pam Kingsley

A BROWN paper soldier cries out in pain as a medic attends him.

Another can be seen climbing a ladder up the walls of a trench as a paper officer stands nearby.

The scene, entitled Requiem, depicts the first day of the Battle of the Somme – July 1, 1916 – and has gone on display at Oswestry Library.

Artist Grace Westwood was inspired by the writings of Oswestry-born soldier poet Wilfred Owen and a wartime chaplain nicknamed Woodbine Willy, who both wrote about the horrors of life in the trenches.

Everything from the weaponry and uniforms to lanterns and communications equipment was thoroughly and meticulously researched to create the figures, and it was based on photographs and images from the trenches.

Library manager Debbie Marais said having the piece in Oswestry was especially poignant given the impact Wilfred Owen's poetry had on its creation.

She said: "I'm really pleased to see it in Oswestry. It's an amazing opportunity for people to see at first hand what life inside the trenches was really like.

"It's bringing a lot of people in to see it. It takes your breath away really."

Miss Westwood said she spent almost three months creating the installation.

"I began the piece by researching trench life and warfare in 1914 to 1918," she said. "Looking at photographs, documentaries and film, I developed design concepts for the installation which were reflective of the WWI trench. The piece is made using brown paper, which is manipulated to create different textures and structural components for each element of the design."

Teresa Eccleston looks at art installation Requiem, which depicts the first day of the Battle of the Somme

Food is the focus of big celebration

A WHOLE week of events, including a pizzas and puddings night, is being planned for a food and drink festival in Mid Wales leading up to Easter.

Llandinam Food and Drink Festival, centred on the Girlguiding Cymru headquarters at Broneirion in Llandinam, near Llanidloes, will be held from March 30 to April 4.

The week begins with a children's Easter activity day with a bread making workshop, butter making, chocolate, planting and hands-on cookery workshops.

Other activities being held throughout the week will include a vintage tea dance with old fashioned high tea, a cheese making workshop and a pizza and puds family night.

Highlight of the week is the Broneirion Food Fair and Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Saturday, which will welcome around 60 stalls in addition to demonstrations by chefs including Nick Davies Tim Harrison and others, workshops, lots of family activities and entertainment by the Tenovus Choir, buskers and local bands.

The festival is designed to promote local food and drink products and their producers, whilst raising money for Girlguiding Cymru.

Car crash leads to road blockage

MOTORISTS faced delays after a two-car crash blocked a busy road in Oswestry.

A blue Hyundai and silver Ford Fiesta were involved in a crash on Gobowen Road in Oswestry at about 3pm on Friday last week.

The accident blocked the road but nobody was injured in the road traffic collision.

Police worked to clear the road and let traffic through.

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Richard and Judy join in with the fun in Oswestry

The ICAT department at The Marches School in Oswestry made their faces funny for money

Adcote School headmaster Gary Wright joined in the fun

The girls at Moreton Hall School near Oswestry enjoyed Red Nose treats during the annual Comic Relief fundraiser

Funny faces

Report by Sue Austin

SCHOOLS, colleges and businesses all got into the Comic Relief spirit by organising various fundraising events for the big charity money-spinner.

Taking part in the fun on Friday last week were members of staff at Stans Superstore in St Martins near Oswestry.

Staff got dressed up as Wally from the popular Where's Wally? feature books, raising £214. Adcote School at Little Ness near Oswestry celebrated Red Nose Day with various fundraising activities and headmaster Gary Wright got into the spirit by sporting a red nose on the day. The school raised more than £300.

Students at Moreton Hall Girls School near Oswestry enjoyed a Comic Relief breakfast in bed treat, delivered to the dorms by the staff.

Staff and students at The Marches School in Oswestry supported Comic Relief by making their faces funny for money. TV couple Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley also did their bit, wearing red noses ahead of their appearance at Oswestry LitFest on Friday night.

Staff at Stans Superstore in St Martins dressed up as Wally for the big fundraiser

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This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days
Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £139.95
Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £149.95
Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel plus full English breakfast.

Pick-up points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.*

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)

For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to shropshirestar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Delays slow payment scheme registration

WITH the application period for claiming the new Basic Payment fast approaching, chartered surveyor Charlotte Rogerson at Berrys is updating farmers about the registration and application process.

The Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) is being released in stages, which the Rural Payments Agency calls functionality, and an updated BPS handbook has been published with a few important changes.

"We have already registered 99 per cent of our clients and advised all of those on their greening requirements," said Charlotte.

"At the moment we can register people, check their land details and set up relevant permissions to date and we expected that that further functionality was to be made available, including splitting and merging of fields, active farmer declaration, and viewing and transferring entitlements. Unfortunately there has been a delay but we anticipate that these functions will be made available this month.

"This new functionality should enable us to build up the 2015 Basic Payment claim and delve into the detail of what is physically going to be on the ground in terms of cropping and Ecological Focus Areas (EFA).

"At the moment we can check land details and specify what is in each field but complication arises when there is more than one crop in a field and boundaries need to be altered. This should be overcome with the new functionality."

She is also warning farmers to leave plenty of time to register and apply as the online system has been running very slowly. The RPA has indicated that this will improve.

"Also, in building up the claim, each field needs to be checked on a plan, and cropping along with any EFA options will need to be mapped, which could take some time so ensure that you leave a lot of time to do this," Charlotte said.

The submission window is not likely to open before the middle of April and all claims must be in by May 15.

999 crews are given tips on animal rescues

FIREFIGHTERS have been getting close to animals as part of a life-saving course in animal rescue.

The animal rescue team from Wellington fire station visited Harper Adams University in Newport for a two-day course to help them deal with rural emergencies. The team learned how to handle and understand the behaviour of cows, sheep and pigs to make sure both animal and firefighter are always safe during a rescue.

Rob Sheppard, firefighter and animal rescue specialist, said: "About three of four years ago we decided we needed to improve our techniques when rescuing large animals, so we constructed a two-day animal handling course with the university.

"We also carry out a two-day practical course held elsewhere where the crews learn techniques to help them rescue large animals using our specialist equipment.

"It's not just about rescuing the animal, it's about learning how they behave, looking for signs of stress, or when they might be about to run towards you – and how to protect yourself.

"We are all full-time firefighters so if you have an animal needing rescue, local crews will attend to stabilise the scene and prevent anyone else being injured but the animal rescue team will also be sent from Wellington to come and rescue the animal itself.

"With Shropshire being a rural county firefighters are often called upon to deal with situations involving animals – at the scene of an accident, at barn fires or as part of a rescue operation."

Alan Stewart, senior lecturer in animal production, welfare and veterinary sciences, said: "What we are trying to do is give the fire service a good understanding of animal behaviour and animal welfare and to give them an appreciation of how animals move and behave."

Mark is new partner at auctions

Mark Jones has been made a partner

THE team at the head of Market Drayton Livestock Market has expanded with the addition of new partner Mark Jones.

Oswestry-born Mark joined Barbers Auctions LLP in 2008 and has since made a huge impact on the livestock market.

As well as establishing the sheep section as one of the fastest growing centres for fat lambs and cull stock sales, Mark has established an independent wool collection service.

The father of three is also extremely involved with direct sales from farm to farm and has established close links with abattoir and farming clients. One of his main roles this year will be heading up the direct sales team, concentrating on TB-restricted cattle and sheep from his developing client base.

He joins existing partners Bernie Hutchinson and Mike Taylor, who formed the company in 2003 with Bob Oakes, who retired from the partnership last year, although the business dates back to 1848.

Mark completed a Rural Estate and Land Management Course BSc (Hons) at Harper Adams University before joining Barbers Auctions LLP in August 2008 as a livestock auctioneer and fieldsman. He went on to achieve an FdSc in Auctioneering and Valuation in September 2009 at the University of Cumbria and gained his Livestock Auctioneers Association FLAA qualification in November 2011.

Mr Hutchinson, said: "Mark is extremely passionate about livestock marketing and his enthusiasm and knowledge of the business makes him a key asset to the Barbers Auctions team.

"Mark joined us in 2008 and within two months he was made market manager. Just over six months later took charge of the sheep section and is now the leading sheep auctioneer."

Schools and hospitals urged to aid farmers

SCHOOLS, hospitals, and caterers are being encouraged to buy Shropshire dairy products by the Government minister responsible for food.

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Secretary Liz Truss urged businesses and public sector organisations to support the region's dairy farmers when responding to a question from Shrewsbury and Atcham MP Daniel Kawczynski.

Mr Kawczynski, said: "She will know that we have some of the most productive and best dairy farmers in Shropshire and the whole of the country and I very much hope to invite her to visit Shropshire after the election when she continues to be a great secretary of state.

Productive

"Would she explain what additional help she is giving to dairy farmers to ensure that more milk is used in our schools and hospitals and for export?"

Ms Truss praised Shropshire's dairy farmers and said the Government was encouraging the public sector organisations to buy products from them.

She said: "I completely agree with my honourable friend about how productive dairy farmers are in Shropshire. We want to see more dairy products sold here in Britain and overseas.

"That is why we launched the Bonfield plan which will open up £400 million of new business across the public sector and very strongly encourage schools, hospitals and caterers to use the balance scorecard so they can buy from great producers in Shropshire."

The Bonfield plan was created in 2014 in an attempt to set out the standards that public sector and suppliers are encouraged to follow when buying food and catering services.

FARMING LATEST

Report by Dominic Robertson

It proposed a new, but voluntary approach, involving use of a balanced scorecard and an e-marketplace, to improve food procurement in the public sector.

Last month Mr Kawczynski called for changes to be made to the taxation of the dairy industry to help struggling farmers.

He said that a more stable billing structure would be a boost for farmers who have been hit by falling milk prices, and signed a letter, written on behalf of several MPs to Chancellor George Osborne, requesting tax changes to the taxation of dairy farmers.

He said: "This is such an important issue for Shrewsbury and Atcham as we have a long-standing dairy industry that is a vital local employer.

"I have raised the alternative options available for taxing the dairy industry, and preferably switching to a five-year average which should provide a more stable billing structure.

"I am working hard to ensure that the dairy industry is preserved and continues to thrive."

His support was welcomed by National Farmers' Union regional director Rob Newbery.

He said: "Daniel Kawczynski remains a robust advocate for Shropshire dairy farmers and those in his constituency and we are pleased to see his continued support, as we work to safeguard the sector at this difficult time."

Farmers recently received a fresh hammer blow after one of the country's leading dairy firms cut its prices to a new low.

Hopes had been raised that the pressure on farmers was easing after Muller Wiseman announced that it was to hold its milk price for April on the back of improvements in global commodity prices.

Now, however, First Milk announced a new payments system for suppliers, which will see it pay as little as 16p for some of its supply.

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Secretary Liz Truss urges dairy industry support

Alan joins team at expanding animal health business

FOLLOWING a year of growth in 2014, Shropshire-based farm hygiene, animal health and pest control business, Oakwood Farm Services, is building on its success with the addition of a new member to the sales team.

Alan Bore has joined the firm to focus on sales of livestock and hygiene products direct to farms in Shropshire and the Welsh border.

Alan brings with him a wealth of sales experience, having most recently worked for Countrywide in south Shropshire.

David Reece, director of Oakwood Farm Services, said: "I am very pleased to welcome Alan to our team, his experience in livestock products will be invaluable in continuing to build upon our reputation for sales direct to farm."

Oakwood Farm Services has a growing reputation for delivering the right advice and products at competitive prices.

"Livestock product sales are going from strength to strength, with members of the team having specialist experience in poultry, beef, sheep and dairy sectors," David said.

David Reece, Craig Watton and Alan Bore at Oakwood

"Becoming a Veterinary Medicine Directorate-approved business in 2014 has allowed the expansion of the product range into wormers, which means we can supply the complete range of products for all livestock needs."

The backbone of the business, pest control, continues to grow with increasing instructions for rodent control on farms and fly control in poultry buildings.

"Development work is under way to expand the fly control services to offer an effective solution for fly control in dairy and beef buildings.

"We plan to roll out services during 2015," he added.

David Reece is looking forward to another busy year and is confident that, in challenging times for the agricultural industry, Oakwood Farm Services is able to offer effective advice and solutions to the poultry, beef, sheep and dairy sectors.

Oakwood Farm Services can be contacted on 01939 291116.

Or you can email them at sales@oakwoodfarmservices.co.uk

Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Attractive property comes with paddock

Laburnum Cottage at Gwern y Brenin, Oswestry is an attractive extended cottage with a paddock and a field shelter in a rural location. It is for sale through Balfours at £399,950.

A period cottage which was originally two cottages, it has been extended to create the wonderful family house it is today.

It has a large kitchen/breakfast room with a Rayburn and a gas oven.

The conservatory links the house, giving access to the Snug which has attractive beams and a log burner.

The sitting room has high ceilings, French doors to the patio and a gas log effect fire.

On the ground floor there is also a WC, boot room/utility and access to the single garage.

Upstairs is a master bedroom with an en-suite shower room and balcony overlooking the gardens and surrounding countryside. There are three further bedrooms and a bathroom.

Outside are large gardens with a paved patio, pond, orchard and vegetable patch.

The paddock is half an acre with a three compartment field shelter with electric supply.

For further information contact Balfours on 01743 353511 or visit the website at www.balfours.co.uk

Development proves a hit with area's first time buyers

First-time buyers need to hurry if they want to live on a new development that offers the Shropshire border lifestyle at a fraction of the price, developers have said.

Charles Church North West has only a handful of properties left at its popular Badger's Green development in Llanymynech where the homes have proved popular due to their well thought out design and great location.

For more information visit www.charleschurch.com

Well-designed development offers a welcoming setting

The Fletcher Homes-built Wat's Meadow development in Gobowen is a fine example of a well-designed development with green open spaces and landscaped areas to provide a welcoming setting.

There is a choice of house types at Wat's Meadow with 2, 3 and 4 bedroom homes.

The furnished show homes at Wat's Meadow are open from Thursday through to Monday from 11am to 5pm.

Call 01691 679490 or e-mail homes@fletcherhomes.co.uk for more details.

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Farmhouse has many outstanding features

Woodhead Estates is privileged to offer Bryn Goleu, St Martins, to the sales market with its many outstanding benefits, not least of which being its quiet rural setting. On the market for offers in the region of £549,950, at the heart of Bryn Goleu is a well-proportioned period farmhouse with many lovely internal features as well as a peaceful lawned garden. There is land, predominently laid to pasture, extending to approximately five acres, an extensive range of outbuildings, as well as a two-storey red-brick barn converted to provide business accommodation.For more details contact Woodhead Estates on 01691 680044.

WOODHEAD ESTATES

Charming property on the outskirts of village

Foel Cottage on Winllan Road, Llansantffraid, is on the market through Town & Country for £77,500.
With no onward chain, this charming semi detached cottage is on the outskirts of the village.
Internal accommodation comprises lounge/diner, kitchen large bedroom and bathroom.
Externally there is a small garden to the front and gravelled garden to the rear.
The property has majority upvc double glazing and electric heating and would make an ideal second home, investment or first time buy. For more details contact Town & Country on 01691 679631.

TOWN & COUNTRY
Tel :01691 679631

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- Detached Family House
- GFCH & DG
- Living Room
- Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Utility/Cloakroom
- Three Bedrooms
- Large Garden
- Garage
- Ample Parking
- Open Views Of Countryside
- EPC Band - F

JJD850

£275,000

ST.MARTINS

- Excellent four bed. family house
- GFCH & PVC D/G
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Cloakroom
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom & En-Suite
- Large Garage & Parking
- Private Rear Garden And Patio
- Corner Plot
- EPC Band - D

JJD864

£199,950

PORTH-Y-WAEN

Exceptionally Well Appointed Country Property
- Central Heating & D/ Glazing
- 2 Good Sized Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- 3 Beds
- En-suite
- Bathroom
- Double Garaging and Workshop
- Attractive Garden And Small Paddock
- EPC Band E

JJD749

£274,500

GOBOWEN

- Detached Three Bedroomed Split Level House
- GFC/H, D/G
- Impressive Lounge
- Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen & Utility
- Garage & Car Parking
- Attractive Patio Garden
- Elevated Position Overlooking Village
- EPC Band D

JJD781

£198,500

GOBOWEN

- Close Care Residential Bungalow
- Purpose Built Complex
- CH & DG
- Lounge/Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Conservatory & Courtyard
- Double Bedroom
- Bathroom/Wet Room
- Visitor Accommodation Available
- EPC Band - D

JJD842

£69,950

ST. MARTINS

Detached House Occupying Pleasant Rural Position
- Opportunity for further improvement
- GFCH
- D/G & Secondary D/G
- Sitting Room & Living Room
- Dining Kitchen
- 3 Good Sized Bedrooms
- Garaging
- Good Sized Garden
- EPC Band D

JJD805

£239,000

PANT, NR. OSWESTRY

- Oil Fired Central Heating
- Entrance Porch
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Breakfast/Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Enclosed Front Garden
- Parking for 4/5 cars
- Workshop
- Includes B/Plot with Full P/P for Dwelling
- EPC Band F

JJD807

GUIDE PRICE £350,000

DOLYWERN, PONTFADOG.

- Country Property Providing Scope For Improvement
- Entrance Porch
- Living Kitchen
- Sitting Room
- Kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Productive Pasture
- Adjoining Barn With Conversion Potential
- In All Approx. Four Acres
- EPC Band - F

JJD856

PRICE GUIDE £235,000

MORDA

- Well Appointed Four Bed. Dormer Bungalow
- GFCH & D/Glazing
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom & Cloakroom
- Study
- Garage & Parking
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Occupying Quiet Village Position
- EPC Band - D

JJD843

£189,950

LLANFECHAIN

- Kitchen
- Drawing Room
- Lounge & Sun Room
- Library & Study
- Cloakroom
- 5 Bedrooms/2 Baths
- Double Garaging
- Possibility to split accommodation
- EPC Band - C

JJD833

GUIDE PRICE £400,000

CHURCH STREET, OSWESTRY

- Excellent ground floor retail shop unit
- Occupying busy trading position
- Available on a new Lease
- Overall shop frontage - 19'
- Internal Width (Max) - 16'2"
- Internal Depth (Max) - 74'
- Side Entrance
- Toilet
- Cellarage
- Two rear store rooms
- EPC Band -

JJD071

RENT PER ANNUM - £15,750

ST. MARTINS - BUILDING PLOT

- Good sized building plot
- Suitable for an executive house
- O.P.P. for single dwelling
- Semi-rural location
- Close to Village facilities
- South facing aspect towards Shropshire Union Canal
- All mains services available

JJD855

£120,000

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NEW PRICE
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OFFERS OVER £895,000

St. Martins — Bryn Goleu
4 BED DET HOUSE
APPROX 5 ACRES OF LAND
CONVERTED BARN
EPC RATING E
OIRO £549,950

Bronygarth — Penybryn Cottage
4 BED DET COTTAGE & ANNEX
3 RECEPTION ROOMS
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING E
OIRO £379,950

Pentre — Stone Cottage
4 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING D
OIRO £339,950

Oswestry — 8 Ardmillan Close
5 BED DET FAMILY HOME
NO CHAIN
SET UP AS A 3 BED HOUSE
EPC RATING D
OIRO £329,950

Park Hall — South Lodge
4 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EXTENSIVE GARDENS
EPC RATING E
OIRO £299,950

Oswestry — 18 Upper Well Close
5 BED DET HOUSE
SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING C
OIRO £299,500

NEW
Upper Hengoed — 1 Perry Bank
5 BED DET HOUSE
ENVIABLE VIEWS
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING D
OIRO £289,950

Oswestry — 33 Glentworth Close
4 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
UTILITY ROOM
EPC RATING D
OIRO £279,950

Oswestry — 10 Bentley Drive
5 BED TOWN HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
STUDY
EPC RATING B
OIRO £269,950

NEW
St. Martins — Laburnum House
4 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
UTILITY ROOM
EPC RATING D
OIRO £259,950

Llanymynech — Development Land
BUILDING PLOT
DEVELOPMENT FOR 8 HOUSES
PLANNING PERMISSION
CONVENIENT LOCATION
OIRO £249,950

Oswestry — 5 Glentworth Avenue
4 BED DET HOUSE
SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
3 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING E
OIRO £244,950

Oswestry — 72 Upper Church Street
4 BED TERRACED HOUSE
IMPRESSIVE KITCHEN DINER
ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
EPC RATING D
OIRO £219,950

Oswestry — 2 South View
3 BED DETACHED BUNGALOW
GARAGE
LIVING/DINING ROOM
EPC RATING D
OIRO £204,950

NEW PRICE
Oswestry — 11 High Lea Close
3 BED DETACHED HOUSE
POPULAR LOCATION
EXTENSIVE CELLAR AREA
EPC RATING D
OIRO £199,950

NEW
Pant — Mellia
2 BED DET BUNGALOW
VIEWS TOWARDS RODNEYS PILLAR
SPACIOUS ACCOMMODATION
EPC RATING D
OIRO £194,950

Oswestry — 11 Southgate Close
3 BED DET HOUSE
KITCHEN/DINER
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £189,950

NEW PRICE
Pentrecoed — The Cottage
2 BED DET COTTAGE
NO CHAIN
KITCHEN/ LIVING ROOM
EPC RATING F
OIRO £167,500

Gobowen — 21 Meadow Drive
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
DOWNSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
EPC RATING C
OIRO £159,950

NEW PRICE
Llanfyllin — Garden Lodge
2 BED DETACHED HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING G
OFFERS OVER £149,950

NEW
Oswestry — 8 Ascot Road
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
GARAGE
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING TBC
OIRO £148,950

Oswestry — 61 Whitefriars
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
CORNER PLOT
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING D
OIRO £146,950

Llanfyllin — 37 Maes-y-dderwen
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
COUNTRYSIDE VIEWS
EPC RATING C
OIRO £146,950

Trefonen — 42 School Lane
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
KITCHEN/ DINER
EPC RATING C
OIRO £144,950

NEW
Oswestry — 49 Upper Brook Street
2 BED PERIOD TOWNHOUSE
NO CHAIN
TOWN CENTRE LOCATION
EPC RATING E
OIRO £144,950

Gobowen Oswestry61 Fernhill Lane
2 BED SEMI DET BUNGALOW
OFF ROAD PARKING
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING C
OIRO £141,500

NEW PRICE
Oswestry — 16 Elgar Close
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
3 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING D
OIRO £139,950

Oswestry — 32 Hawthorn Grove
3 BED TERRACE HOUSE
UTILITY ROOM
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING C
OIRO £117,500

NEW
Oswestry — 45 Upper Brook Street
2 BED TOWN HOUSE
NO CHAIN
TOWN CENTRE LOCATION
EPC RATING D
OIRO £114,950

NEW
Oswestry — 8 Llys Close
2 BED TERRACE HOUSE
KITCHEN/DINER
DOUBLE GLAZING
EPC RATING E
OIRO £109,950

NEW
Oswestry 1 Crestwood Bungalows
2 BED SEMI DET BUNGALOW
CONSERVATORY
OFF ROAD PARKING
EPC RATING C
OIRO £99,950

NEW
Oswestry — 7 Minshall Place
2 BED MAISONETTE
NO CHAIN
RECENTLY MODERNISED
EPC RATING E
OIRO £87,950

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12 JASMIN GARDENS, OSWESTRY. 2 BED SEMI DET HOUSE	£475 PCM
14 LLYS ROAD, OSWESTRY. 2 BED TERRACE HOUSE	£495 PCM
2 PLAS OFFA, CHIRK. 2 BED TERRACE HOUSE	£495 PCM
19 HERITAGE WAY, LLANYMYNECH. 4 BED TOWN HOUSE	£525 PCM
4 THE OLD TANNERY, OSWESTRY. 2 BED TERRACE HOUSE	£550 PCM
28 CASTLE WALKS, CHIRK. 3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE	£595 PCM
1 BRIDGE TERRACE, OSWESTRY. 4 BED TERRACE HOUSE	£675 PCM

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Beautiful cottage is in an idyllic setting

A beautifully presented detached cottage in an idyllic position down a quiet country lane, Rose Cottage, Iron Mills, Gobowen, is surrounded by open countryside popular with walkers and cyclists. It is for sale through Halls at £425,000. It has an entrance hall, a reception hall/study, a sitting room, a kitchen/dining room, a sun room, a utility room, WC, master bedroom suite with en suite, bedroom two with a double wardrobe and bedroom three with part of an exposed truss and a bathroom including a spa bath.
For further information contact Halls on 01691 670320 or visit www.hallsgb.com

Halls

Delightful property is in popular hamlet

Offered with no chain, Ty Canol, Tregeiriog is a delightful detached country cottage within a popular hamlet which is ideal for outdoor interests such as walking and cycling. The property is on the market for £156,000 with Town & Country. Situated between Glyn Ceiriog and Llanarmon DC. Accommodation comprises a reception hall, lounge with a wonderful feature fireplace and beamed ceiling, kitchen/diner, inner hallway, dining room, side entrance hall, first floor landing, two good sized bedrooms, one with a beamed ceiling, bathroom, store room/office, well maintained gardens and a garage. Call Town & Country on 01691 679631.

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NEW

Babbinswood £395,000

- A substantial and most individual family property
- Set within just under an acre of gardens
- Reception Hall, Living Room, Study, Kitchen, Dining Room
- Conservatory, Utility, Side Entrance Hall, Cloakroom
- Master Bedroom with En-suite, 4 further Beds & Family Bathroom
- Large driveway providing off road parking & integral double garage
- Oil Central Heating, Double Glazing . EPC Rating D

NEW

Upper church Street, Oswestry £70,000

- Grade II Listed 3 Bedroom, 3 Storey Townhouse, in need of modernisation
- Retaining a host of period features throughout
- Living Room, Kitchen, Cellar, 1st floor Bedroom and Bathroom
- 2 further second floor Bedrooms
- Rear paved courtyard which leads onto a further garden
- Gas central is installed throughout.

NEW

Station Road, Oswestry £122,000

- A well maintained and deceptively spacious 2 Bedroom Mid-Terrace Property
- Lounge, large Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room, ground floor Family Bathroom
- 2 first floor Bedrooms and first floor Bathroom.
- Rear courtyard garden, good size front driveway and off-road parking
- uPVC double glazing and gas fired central heating. EPC Rating D
- The property should be of interest to first time buyers and investors

NEW

Berllan Deg, Llansanttfraid £149,995

- A well maintained spacious 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached House
- Situated in a quite cul-de-sac location on a generous plot
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room
- 3 Bedrooms (master en-suite) and Family Bathroom.
- South facing well maintained private rear garden
- Ample off-road parking and carport
- Oil C/H and double glazing. EPC Rating C

NEW

Vyrnwy Road, Oswestry £144,995

- A beautifully appointed 2 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility
- 2 Bedrooms (master en-suite), and Bathroom.
- Landscaped rear garden comprising flower beds,
- Patio and lawned garden with meandering pathway.
- Double glazing and gas central heating. EPC Rating

NEW

Wilfred Owen Close, Oswestry £160,000

- Detached 3 Bedroom House in a popular residential location
- Entrance Hall, Study, Lounge, Kitchen, Lean-To
- First Floor Landing, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Driveway to front, ample parking & integral garage
- To the rear is a good size garden.
- Double glazing & Oil C/H. EPC Rating E

Property Auction

26 March

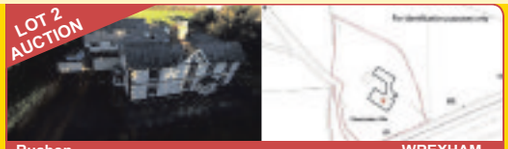
2.00pm

@ the Lion Quays Hotel, Moreton Oswestry SY11 3EN

LOT 1 AUCTION

Caergwrle — **WREXHAM**
Guide Price £80,000–£100,000

- Detached bungalow
- Rural Location
- Certificate of Lawful Development for Extension.
- Grounds approx 0.6 of an acre
- Outlooks over farmland
- Contact Wrexham Office



LOT 2 AUCTION

Ruabon — **WREXHAM**
Guide Price £175,000–£225,000

- Former residential care home
- Large period house
- Occupying screened gardens and grounds
- Rural outlook to rear set in over 1 ac
- Substantial extension and annexe to the rear
- Double-garage block
- Main parking and turning area
- In Agent's opinion- excellent potential for a number of uses (subject to consent)
- Energy Rating G
- Contact Llangollen Office

LOT 3 AUCTION

St Martins — **OSWESTRY**
Guide Price Over £60,000

- 3 Bedroom Ground Floor Leasehold Apartment
- Maintained to a High Standard
- Entrance Hall, Lounge
- Inner Hallway, Kitchen/Dining Room
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Rear Garden with Views
- EPC Rating D
- Contact Oswestry Office

LOT 4 AUCTION

Trevor — **LLANGOLLEN**
Guide Price Over £100,000

- DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY
- Former garage site
- Extends to approx 0.57 acres (0.23 hectares)
- Outline planning permission for residential development
- Situated in the village of Trevor
- Fringe of the picturesque Dee Valley
- Close to the World Heritage Site of Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.
- Contact Llangollen Office

LOT 5 AUCTION

Overton — **WREXHAM**
Guide Price Over £70,000

- A charming end-mews cottage with beamed ceilings. Grade II Listed
- Central position within Overton-on-Dee
- Two bedroom, modern kitchen and bathroom
- Gas fired central heating from a modern combination boiler
- EPC Rating D
- Contact Wrexham Office

LOT 6 AUCTION

ELLESMERE
Guide Price Over £250,000

- Detached modern dormer bungalow
- Four bedrooms - One En-suite.
- Good sized gardens & garage.
- Gas fired c/h, uPVC d/glazed
- Located on fringes of town centre.
- EPC Rating B
- Contact Ellesmere Office

Our local valuers offer many years of experience and offer honest and independent advice on the how to achieve the best price possible. To arrange a free no-obligation market appraisal please contact one of the offices.

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Contact your local Bowen Son and Watson office today and we will help you find the property that's right for you

Elegant period house in mature gardens

An imposing late Victorian residence in a sought-after part of Oswestry is on the market at £375,000. Croftside, Queens Road, stands in large mature gardens and has a hall, drawing room and dining room. There is a cloakroom, sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room utility and a cellar.

The master bed is en-suite, bedroom two has a dressing room. There are three more bedrooms and a family bathroom. It stands in attractive lawned gardens with a large terrace and ample parking.

Call Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 for more details.

Bowen Son and Watson

Lovely restored farmhouse with outbuildings

Horse owners seeking a beautifully restored period farmhouse with outbuildings, extensive landscaped gardens and productive pastureland are being advised to check out a property near Newtown. Lower Llegodig, Abermule, a spacious family home with grounds and pasture paddock extending to 7.5 acres, is on the market with agents Halls who are seeking offers in excess of £509,995. The characterful accommodation includes four reception rooms, four bedrooms and two bathrooms.

Viewing, which is highly recommended, is by appointment with Halls, Welshpool on 01938 555552.

Halls

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Wat's Meadow, Gobowen, Oswestry, SY11 3JS

A mix of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom homes within walking distance of Gobowen village.

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Fletcher Homes (Shropshire) Limited, 95 Mount Pleasant Road, SHREWSBURY, Shropshire SY1 3EN Tel: 01743 267020.Talk to our representative for full details. Illustration shows The Vyrnwy at Wat's Meadow and example lifestyle images. YOUR HOME MAY BE AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE OR ANY OTHER DEBT SECURED ON IT. Mortgage offer is subject to application and status. Subject to contract. *Limited offer available on selected plots only. Terms & conditions apply.

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OnTheMarket.com RICS

101 Llwyn Road, Oswestry
£134,500

Semi detached house. Lounge and fitted kitchen. Three bedrooms and fitted bathroom. Gas-fired central heating, double glazing. Close to Historic Hill Fort. Accessible from Town Centre. Well maintained accommodation. No Chain. EPC Rating = 51 (E)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

38 Beresford Gardens, Oswestry
£135,000

End terrace town bungalow. Two bedrooms and fitted bathroom. Lounge and kitchen/breakfast room. Double glazed and gas central heating. Allocated parking spaces. Close to the town centre. Pleasant well laid out accommodation. EPC Rating 81 (C)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

36 Beresford Gardens, Oswestry
£132,500

Mid terraced town bungalow. Two bedrooms and fitted bathroom. Lounge and kitchen/breakfast. Double glazed and gas central heating. Allocated parking spaces. Close to the town centre. Affording well laid out accommodation. EPC Rating 78 (C).

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

Unit at Pentre, Woodhill
£140,000

Grade II stone-built derelict cottage. Conversion works commenced. Delightful parkland setting. Semi rural location, pleasant views. 3 bedrooms, 2 receptions. Detached stone built garage - complete. Private approach over shared driveway.

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

9 Border Close, Oswestry
£142,500

Semi detached house and garage. Three bedrooms and bathroom. Fitted kitchen and rear lounge. Gas-fired central heating, double glazing. Enclosed lawned rear garden. Close to the town centre. Head of cul-de-sac in popular estate. EPC Rating = 61 (D)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION
on
26th MARCH at 2pm
at Welshpool Livestock Sales, Buttington, Welshpool, SY21 8SR

Former Primary School, Dolfor

Former Primary School. Set in generous level grounds of 1 acre (est.). Situated in the village of Dolfor. Constructed in 1953. Adaptable building suitable for a multiple range of uses (subject to consent). Overage Clause applies.

GUIDE PRICE: £140,000 to £160,000

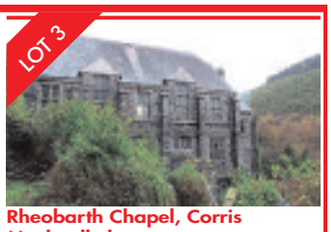
Newtown Office 01686 626160

14 College Green, Tywyn

Substantial end terrace with mixed residential/ commercial use. In need of extensive refurbishment. Convenient location just off the town centre. With 3 bedroom maisonette above. EPC Rating=55

GUIDE PRICE: £70,000
SOLD STC PRIOR TO AUCTION

Tywyn |Office 01654 710388



Rheobarth Chapel, Corris Machynlleth

Former Methodist Chapel. Dating back to 1925. Grade II Listed. Potential for multitude of uses. Chapel room approx 59' x 40'. Original pine pews and benches. Hall room approx 60' x 34'. Full Vacant Possession.

GUIDE PRICE: £60,000 to £65,000

MachynllethOffice 01654 702472

4 Brynglas Walk, Tywyn

3/4 bedroomed detached bungalow. Gas centrally heated and double glazed. Low maintenance garden. Quiet Cul de Sac location. Level walking distance to the town centre & seafront. Energy Efficiency Rating=53

GUIDE PRICE: £105,000

Tywyn |Office 01654 710388

2 Ty Arfon, Tywyn, Gwynedd

Excellent two bedroom first floor flat. Good views from all the rooms. Close to the beach. Within walking distance of the town centre. Upvc double glazing. Energy Efficiency Rating =31

GUIDE PRICE: £45,000

Tywyn 01654 710388

15 Glan Yr Afon, Berriew

Semi-detached house situated in cul-de-sac within a popular village location. Sitting & Living rooms, Kitchen, Utility & Sep W.C. Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Oil Fired Heating. Double Glazed. In need of internal upgrading. EPC rating = 33

GUIDE PRICE: £125,000

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

12 Avondale, Chirk Bank

Mature semi detached house. Two receptions and two bedrooms. Fitted kitchen and bathroom. Gas CH, DG. Large hard-standing to the fore. Sloping rear gardens up to canal towpath. Requiring minimal completion of repairs. EPC Rating 54 (E)

GUIDE PRICE: £115,000 to £120,000

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

Building Plot, Pantycrug Aberystwyth

Freehold building plot, measurements TBC, 7 miles from the University and noted coastal town of Aberystwyth with Outline Planning Consent for construction of a superior detached single dwelling, Subject to 106 Affordable Discount Agreement.

GUIDE PRICE: £40,000 to £50,000

Aberrystwyth Office 01970 625020

Heddwch, Lodge 31, Panteidal, Aberdyfi

South facing slopes of Dyfi Estuary. Refurbished, well maintained, spacious accommodation. Double aspect views to South and East. Good position with easy access and privacy. Three bedrooms to include contents. Energy Efficiency Rating = 53.

GUIDE PRICE: £30,000

Tywyn 01654 710388

Teglys, Troedyrallt, Llanidloes

Semi detached house in cul de sac. D/glazed. Gas c/heating. Lounge, dining room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, sep wc. Gardens. EPC Rating = 64

WITHDRAWN FROM AUCTION - FOR SALE BY PRIVATE TREATY

Llanidloes Office 01686 412567

Methodist Chapel, Stepaside

Former Methodist Chapel. Approx 2 miles from Newtown. Spacious Chapel Room, Lobby, Kitchen, Toilet. Potential for conversion (subject to planning consent).

GUIDE PRICE: £70,000
SOLD STC PRIOR TO AUCTION

Newtown Office 01686 626160

Treetops, Brynfa, Welshpool

Detached 3 Bedroom Bungalow. In need of modernisation. Living Room, Kitchen/Diner. Shower Room. Garage, Workshop and WC. Plot extends to approx 0.51 acres. Gas CH, D/G. Views over Severn Valley & Welshpool. EPC Rating = 61

GUIDE PRICE: £170,000 to £180,000

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

Aberystwyth 01970 625020
Llanidloes 01686 412567
Machynlleth 01654 702472
Newtown 01686 626160
Oswestry 01691 679595
Shrewsbury 01743 247755
Tywyn 01654 710388
Welshpool 01938 554818
Aberdyfi (window display)

Property in town offers spacious accommodation

7a Bridge Street in Llanfyllin comprises a period three storey terraced town house of pleasant rendered elevations under a pitched slated roof. The property is on the market through Halls with offers in the region of £115,000. It offers spacious and adaptable accommodation which provides for a sitting room with open fireplace, fitted kitchen, cellar, first floor landing, bedroom, bathroom and a further two bedrooms on the second floor. Outside to the rear of the property are the gardens comprising a concrete patio area with herbaceous and shrub flowerbeds. Contact Halls on 01938 555552 for more details.

Well appointed property is located in popular village

Woodhead Estates are delighted to present this exciting opportunity to purchase a spacious four bedroom detached dormer bungalow with attached cottage industry-size business opportunity. As a most well-appointed property and located in the popular village of Treflach, Craig-y-Don has much to commend it, offering light and spacious accommodation over two floors. The annexe is currently set-up as a highly successful speciality food-production business which is available to purchase under separate negotiation. Offers in region of £339,950. Contact Woodhead Estates on 01691 680044 for more details.

Spacious two-bed bungalow has sun room

This spacious two-bedroom detached bungalow 19 Aston Way, Oswestry, is on the market for £136,000. It is in an established residential location, conveniently located for the shopping facilities and amenities of the town. Accommodation briefly comprises; hallway, lounge/diner, kitchen/breakfast room, inner hall, two bedrooms and a bathroom. At the front is a gravelled area with a driveway allowing off road parking and a single garage. To the rear of the property is a sun room plus a low maintenance gravelled garden with shrubs. There is no upward chain. Contact Town and Country Property Services on 01691 679631.

Home has exceptionally well appointed accommodation

A large detached Edwardian family village house, Sunnyside on Station Road in Whittington offers exceptionally well appointed accommodation throughout. The property is on the market with JJ Dell & Co for £269,950. Accommodation includes an entrance hall, cloakroom, three receptions rooms and a breakfast/kitchen. Upstairs there are four bedrooms and a large family bathroom. The property also has a sewing room. The property is set back from the road and is approached over a concreted drive providing ample car parking and access to garaging. For more details contact JJ Dell and Co on 01691 653437 or 680212.

TOWN & COUNTRY

Tel :01691 679631

LETTINGS

- Oswestry, 2 x Retirement Ap't £300pcm / £400pcm
- Weston Rhyn, 2 Bed Ap't £400pcm
- Glyn Ceiriog, 2 Bed Ter £400pcm
- Oswestry, 2 Bed House £475pcm
- Chirk, 3 Bed House £525pcm
- Llanrhaeadr, 3 Bed Bung £550pcm
- St Martins, 3 Bed House £550pcm
- Fees apply for all rental properties

LLANSANTFFRAID

- NO CHAIN!!!
- Semi Detached Cottage
- One Double Bedroom
- Beamed Ceilings. EPC F
- Rear Garden
- Electric Heating

£77,500

LLANYMYNECH

- Immaculate Two Bedroom
- End of Terrace. EPC C
- Popular Edge of Village
- Gas Central Heating
- uPVC Double Glazing
- Landscaped Garden

£114,950

OSWESTRY

- WITH NO CHAIN!
- Detached dormer bungalow
- Two/ Three Bedrooms
- Garage & Parking
- Edge of Town Location
- Double Glazing. EPC E.
- Gas Central Heating
- Updating Required Throughout

Offers over £160,000

UPPER CHIRK BANK

- No Chain! Mid Terrace Cottage
- 2 Bedrooms, 2 Rec Rooms
- Off Street Parking. EPC D.
- Views Over Open Fields
- Gas C.H. & uPVC D.G.
- Many Original Features

£134,950

OSWESTRY

- Three Bedrooms
- No Chain. EPC C.
- Off Road Parking
- Rear Garden
- Brick Built Outhouse
- Upvc Double Glazing

£117,000

LLANYMYNECH

- TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION!!
- Three Bedroom
- Detached Property
- Good Sized Gardens
- Needs Refurbishment
- Detached Stone Barn
- Ample Off-Road Parking
- EPC Rating G.

Guide price £180,000

OSWESTRY

- Victorian Terrace Property
- Two Bedrooms + Attic Room
- Garage
- Rear Garden with Workshop
- Gas Central Heating
- uPVC Double Glazing

£162,000

NANTMAWR

- CHARMING!!
- Detached Stone Cottage
- Two Bedrooms
- Beamed Ceilings. EPC F.
- Log Burner & Cooking Range
- Outbuildings, Pond

£230,000

TREFONEN

- Four Bedroom Semi
- Popular Location
- Oil Central Heating
- En Suite & Cloakroom
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing. EPC F.

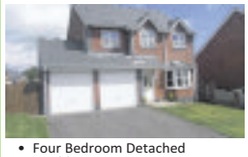
£225,000

GLYN CEIRIOG

- Detached Bungalow
- Three/ Four Bedrooms
- Elevated Position
- Improvements Required
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Oil Central Heating

Offers in the region of £179,950

ARDDLEEN



- Four Bedroom Detached
- Double Garage
- En Suite & Cloakroom
- Oil Central Heating

£195,000

OSWESTRY

- Spacious Detached Bungalow
- Sought After Location
- Three Bedrooms
- Modern Bathroom

Offers in the region of £210,000

ST MARTINS

- WITH NO CHAIN!!
- Large Corner Plot
- Detached Bungalow
- EPC E
- Garage & Parking
- upvc Double Glazing

Offers in the region of £180,000

CRAIGNANT

- Delightful Stone Farm House
- Beautiful Location
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Ideal for Horses
- Outbuildings. EPC E.
- Outstanding Views

£500,000

WESTON RHYN

- Detached Modern House
- Three Bedrooms
- Ensuite & Bathroom
- Utility & W.C.
- Beautiful Gardens
- Garage and Parking.

Offers in the region of £179,950

RHOSYGADFA, GOBOWEN

- Beautiful Location with Views
- Award Winning Barn Conversion
- Four Bedroom. EPC C.
- Five Acres
- Ideal for Horses/Livestock
- Oil Central Heating

£570,000

OSWESTRY

- NO ONWARD CHAIN!!
- Detached Family Home
- Three Bedrooms. EPC D.
- Modern Kitchen

Offers in the region of £169,995

ST MARTINS

- WITH NO CHAIN
- Detached Cottage
- Semi-rural Location
- Three Bedrooms. EPC E.

£169,950

ARDDLEEN

- Modern Detached House
- Four Bedrooms (Two ensuite)
- Double Garage & Driveway
- Cul de Sac Location

£250,000

ST MARTINS

- Possible Part Exchange
- Three Bedroom
- Detached Bungalow
- Large Landscaped Garden

Offers in excess of £260,000

CEFN COCH

- Traditional Four Bedroom Farmhouse
- Secluded Location
- Original Features Throughout

£360,000

MAESBROOK

- NO CHAIN
- Equestrian
- Barn Conversion
- Three Bedrooms

£398,000

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CONTACT THE CHRONICLE ON 01691 668094

An osprey in the Welshpool nest in 2004

Monty the osprey pictured near Dyfi Junction

Monty the osprey takes flight at the Dyfi estuary

Emyr Evans, left, with world-renowned ospreys expert Roy Dennis

Book tells of osprey success

Report by Toby Neal

WITH a cast of flighty characters, it is like a soap opera based on the lives of some very unusual families which came to settle in Mid Wales.

There's Monty, Nora, Ceulan (deceased - got caught up in fishing nets in Senegal), Dai Dot, Einion, White 94 (last seen in Switzerland, 500 miles off course), and many – but not really that many – more.

And a new episode is about to start when Wales' only resident ospreys return home from their migration to Africa. They always come back to the same nests, generally in mid to late March, or early April at the latest.

Their recolonisation over the last 10 years is a success story which began at a nest near Welshpool. When an osprey fledged there in 2004, it was the first time in centuries that that had happened in Wales.

The Welshpool nest which made history has not been graced by the presence of breeding ospreys since. However a nest at Glaslyn near Porthmadog has produced chicks. Glaslyn is the site of the Glaslyn Osprey Project, which attracts thousands of people every year. They can watch the birds from a hide with binoculars and telescopes, or get up really close thanks to high definition cameras around the nest.

Since the pioneering Glaslyn nest, another breeding pair has become firmly established further south, by the Dyfi estuary. Of the three other known Welsh nests, one is further east in Mid Wales, at a hush-hush location.

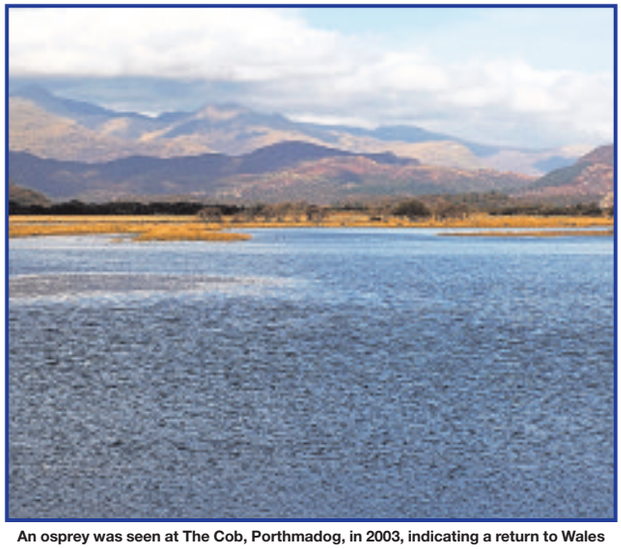
The osprey story is told in a new book "Ospreys In Wales - The First Ten Years" by Emyr Evans, of Machynlleth.

All being well the Dyfi breeding pair, Monty and Glesni, are expected back at the end of March or beginning of April, and the Glaslyn birds a little earlier.

Since 2004, a total of 43 osprey young have fledged from Welsh nests.

After migration to Africa, they stay there for two or three years before returning, but mortality is high, which explains why only a relative handful of these young have ever come back.

"Ospreys In Wales - The First Ten Years" is available from www.ospreysinwales.com, or from Amazon.



An osprey was seen at The Cob, Porthmadog, in 2003, indicating a return to Wales

A nesting platform was installed at the River Dyfi

Nora and Monty on the Dyfi nest shortly after their return from Africa

Cinema listings

STILL ALICE (12A)

Powerful drama – 7/10

Julianne Moore delivers an Oscar-winning performance as a forty-something mother faced with an early diagnosis of Alzheimer's in Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland's heartfelt drama. Based on the novel by Lisa Genova, Still Alice simply, yet powerfully, conveys the emotional devastation for the central character and her family.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (15)

Poor taste comedy– 3/10

Dan Trunkman quits his job and establishes himself as a hardworking small-business owner. He lands a big contract but his former boss is out to steal the business. Dan resorts to extreme measures to win the contract, embarking on a madcap series of misadventures that includes a detour to a gay fetish event.

CHAPPIE (15)

Robot wars – 7/10

Scientist Deon Wilson (Dev Patel) has blessed a robot called CHAPPiE with artificial intelligence and encourages the automaton to think for itself. Deon and his inner circle marvel at their creation's ability. Alas, doomsayer Vincent Moore (Hugh Jackman) expresses concern and instigates a bitter war of words and explosive weapons.

IT FOLLOWS (15)

Sex is a killer – 8/10

Sex becomes a killer in this horror which sees the stalking manifestion take on the form of family, friends or total strangers as it passed from one victim to the next. When a group of youngsters clash with the sexually transmitted menace, they acknowledge the deadly threat and go on the run with 19-year-old Jay (Maika Monroe), and neighbour Greg (Daniel Zovatto) to concoct a plan of action.

FOCUS (15)

Sting in the tail – 6/10

Nicky Spurgeon (Will Smith) is a conman. During carnival season, he operates out of New Orleans and becomes amorously entangled with novice Jess Barrett (Margot Robbie). Three years later, Nicky is in Buenos Aires at a race car circuit for a new scam. Just as Nicky is poised to initiate his scheme, Jess reappears and throws him into a tailspin.

BLACKHAT(15)

Computer conspiracy – 7/10

An elusive mastermind causes an explosion at a Hong Kong nuclear plant and tampers with soy prices on Chicago's Mercantile Trade Exchange. Chinese military officer Captain Chen Dawai and his sister Lien join forces with the FBI and a jailed computer whizz to unmask the culprit. The worldwide trail of clues that could lead them into the sights of an assassin.

Reggae sounds are coming to festival

By Dominic Robertson

REGGAE legend Ali Campbell has promised Llangollen International Music Festival a concert unlike anything it has seen before.

The performer, the voice of UB40 who sold 70 million records, will be playing at the festival's closing concert on July 12, with two other founding members of UB40, percussionist, trumpet player and vocalist Astro and keyboard player Mickey.

Campbell, who, along with Mickey, left the original UB40 in 2008, is looking forward to his first visit to Llangollen.

He said: "We are back on our mission taking reggae music to the world.

"Llangollen, I can promise, won't have ever seen a concert like the one we intend to put on. I know Status Quo were there last year, well I can promise you this, we'll smash them."

Eilir Owen Griffiths, the eisteddfod's musical director, said they were delighted to see Ali Campbell coming to the festival.

He said: "The concert with Ali Campbell, the legendary voice of UB40, with Astro and Mickey is going to be an absolutely fantastic night and I'm sure the pavilion will be bouncing.

"It will be a fitting climax to a really exciting week of really world class entertainment – I can't wait."

Father-of-eight Campbell, now 56, was born and raised in Birmingham and says his love of reggae comes from his early life in the Midlands.

He said: "Reggae just gives you something different, a freedom I suppose. It's probably the youngest genre around but I listen to music from all around the world and the reggae influence is massive. It's so influential.

"I was, in 1978, one of the founding members of UB40, along with Astro and Mickey. And I was the principal songwriter. We sold more than 70 million records worldwide and toured around the world for more than 30 years.

"We decided on the name UB40 as a friend of mine, Andy Nash, pointed out we were all on the dole at the time and suggested we name ourselves after the Government's Unemployment Benefit Form 40, or UB40 as it was known.

"It was probably a better choice for a band name than the one we had already sort of decided on, which was Geoff Cancer and the Nicorettes.

"I've been flying the flag for reggae ever since. We are in the middle of world tour which is going brilliantly. The simple truth is we are the hottest reggae band around. If you want real reggae and the real UB40 then it has to be us.

Ali Campbell is bringing the sounds of reggae to the Llangollen International Eisteddfod

"In the last year we have performed in Australia and New Zealand, where I was one of the three judges on New Zealand's Got talent, and Papua New Guinea.

"We are selling out wherever we go, people want to hear that true UB40 reggae sound and that's what we are giving them.

"I just want to put on the best show possible and that's what I promise UB40 fans who come to see our shows. Llangollen won't have seen anything like it, it's that simple."

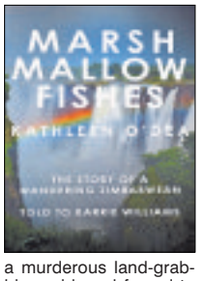
The stellar line-up this year also includes Oscar-winning songwriter Burt Bacharach who will open the festival on Monday, July 6, and classical heart-throb Alfie Boe who will be performing songs from musical theatre and movies on the Thursday night, July 9. The concert will round off another packed week which will feature Children's Day and the Parade of Nations on the Tuesday, led by Eisteddfod president Terry Waite before the evening Heart of Llangollen concert featuring a galaxy of international talent.

Highlights of Wednesday will include the debut of the International Young Musician of the Year and the Children's Choir of the World.

Book reviews

MARSHMALLOW FISHES

By Barrie Williams
Published by New Generation



Stirring stuff written with humour and compassion, this is an absorbing book. Having been asked to help Kathleen O'Dea get a message through to the then Prime Minister Tony Blair, newspaper editor Barrie Williams became interested in what she had to say. Kathleen wanted to persuade politicians to take a stronger stand against Robert Mugabe.

She travelled from Zimbabwe to Britain to ask politicians to intervene. She had experienced the terror of being captured and held hostage during a murderous land-grabbing raid, and forced to watch the bloody beating of many black workers.

A tale of stubborn defiance, courage, and a woman who just wouldn't give up.

By Sally Bunn

THE LIFE YOU LEFT

By Carmel Harrington
Published by Harper Impulse

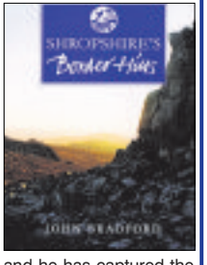
Sarah Lawler has a busy, happy life looking after her husband, home and three children. But one day her husband, Paul, fails to come home. He has left just a note saying that he needs "space and time" to sort himself out. She tries to give him that time but as her financial problems get worse she turns to her twin brother, who is a private investigator, for help in finding her missing husband. But she also has a visit from another helper. This is her guardian angel, Edward, who is a being that nobody else can see.

Sounds far-fetched? Of course it does, but then this book makes for an excellent, escapist read with a cast of interesting and likeable characters.

By Deborah Knox

SHROPSHIRE'S BORDER HILLS

By John Bradford
Published by Hunt End Books



John Bradford spent part of his childhood in south Shropshire and his love of the county shines through every page of this full colour softback book. He has been out and about taking photographs of the borderlands landscape which, for those of us who have trouble getting up from our sofas, brings home just what we are missing out there.

The pictures are supported by text and interesting information, but it is the quality of the photos that of course carry a book like this, and he has captured the countryside in all its different moods and seasons.

Mr Bradford suffered preparing the book, on one hillside he slipped and broke his ankle.

By Toby Neal

BRAIN TRAINING

Test your mental agility. Target times, in minutes, are in the little clocks

9-er

(3)

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all 9 letters.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

THE CLUES
628 is a sailor,
43281 is a protector,
39578 is an official.

Your time:

X is to Y

(2)

1. Feline is to Cat as Caprine is to ? BEAR, DEER, DOG, GOAT, SHEEP

2. Grip is to Raven as Bullseye is to ? CANARY, CAT, DOG, HORSE, RAT

3. Spat is to Ankle as Obi is to ? HEAD, NECK, THIGH, WAIST, WRIST

Your time:

Mindbender

(4)

Lida and Madeline started the week with the same lengths of wool. If, at the end of the week, Lida had used 5/8 of her wool and Madeline had used 7/15 of hers, which was ninety-five metres less than Lida, how much wool did Madeline use?

Your time:

Mirror Image

(2)

Which of the four shapes below is an exact mirror image of the shape on the right?

A

B

C

D

Your time:

Split Decision

(3)

Cross out one of the two letters in each divided square to reveal a completed crossword grid.

F/P	O/L	O/A	N/T	S/K
H/O		S/C		W/E
R/T	O/E	O/S	T/I	S/T
X/U		E/R		C/F
B/M	O/A	T/N	C/E	S/H

Your time:

IMPOSSIPUZZLES

1. 'Congratulations, but he does seem a bit old for you,' said Clare. 'How old is Ron anyway?'
Elsie smiled. 'Well, I'll tell you. But it's love that matters, not age. If you multiply the sum of our two ages by their difference, you get one more than five times the square of my age.'
Love's young dream! But what were their ages?

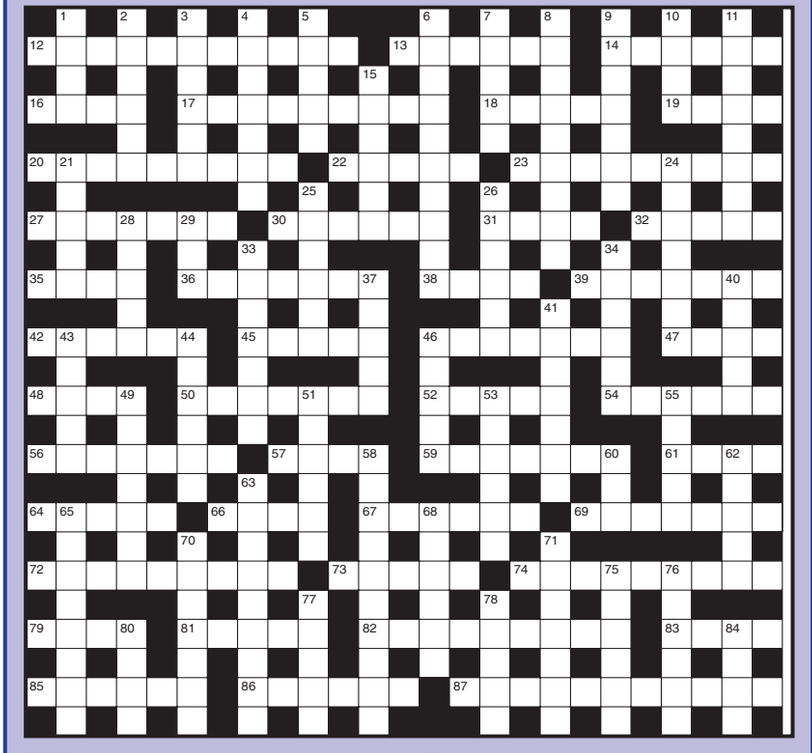
2. 'Sorry,' said Roy, 'but I can give you forty pence. If I gave you a pound, you'd have twice as much as me.'
Linda smiled. 'Well, that'll help a lot,' she told him. 'I'll have twice what I've got now.'
How much did Roy have?

3. Sally was waiting there right under the clock. 'You're five minutes late,' she said. 'What happened?'
'Traffic, dear,' replied Fred. 'Not like most days at this time. I was driving at a nice steady speed to be here 10 minutes early. But the last 10 miles I could average only half that speed.'
What was his speed for the first part of the run?

SUDOKU

		2	9	3	8	7		
		7				5		
4	3						8	2
8			7		9			6
7								1
2			1		5			8
1	7						2	9
		8				1		
		6	2	4	1	8		

CROSSWORD

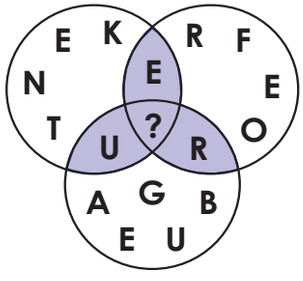


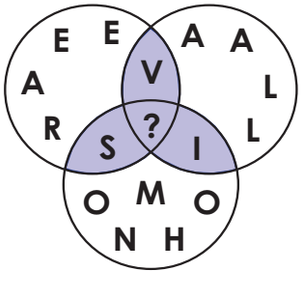
ACROSS
12 Hardly any (8,3)
13 Run (6)
14 Ahead (6)
16 Carry (4)
17 Examining (5,4)
18 Beam (5)
19 Bird (4)
20 Number (9)
22 Couple (5)
23 Scold (9)
27 Design (7)
30 Female name (6)
31 Plant (4)
32 Anxious (5)
35 Vegetable (4)
36 Ornament (7)
38 Relieve (4)
39 Quickly (7)
42 Propped (6)
45 Digit (5)
46 Prevented (7)
47 Attire (4)
48 Flower (4)
50 Gapes (7)
52 Bird (5)
54 Somewhat (6)
56 Told (7)
57 Speculator (4)
59 Current (7)
61 Outlay (4)
64 Sees (5)
66 Lofty (4)
67 Went off (6)
69 Hoped (7)
72 Confidentially (2,7)
73 Frank (5)
74 Nominee (9)
79 Excite (4)
81 Scale (5)
82 Continued (7,2)
83 Whip (4)
85 Annoying (6)
86 Endeavour (6)
87 Blunt (5-6)

DOWN
1 Release (4)
2 Hard to find (6)
3 Tried (6)
4 Aimed (7)
5 Prevaricate (5)
6 Realise (10)
7 Foolish (5)
8 Amazed (9)
9 Bills (7)
10 Fearful (4)
11 Precludes (8)
15 Against (6)
21 Cancel (5)
24 Convention (7)
25 Inequitable (6)
26 Fast (6)
28 Voice (5)
29 Knock (3)
33 Performing (2,5)
34 Roam (6)
37 Layers (5)
40 Big (5)
41 Wood (7)
43 Mount (5)
44 Determined (6)
46 Fragment (5)
49 Break (7)
51 Recently (6)
53 Steeped (6)
55 Nails (5)
58 Tackle (3,5,2)
60 Pitch (3)
62 Paper (5)
63 Chinese (9)
65 Hole (8)
68 Comment (6)
70 Usual (7)
71 Soppy (7)
75 Nationality (6)
76 Lump (6)
77 Anxieties (5)
78 Young animal (5)
80 Bar (4)
84 Observes (4)

CIRCLEGRAM

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be rearranged to form words with a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?





ALPHAMUDDLE

Rearrange the letters to make five words that read both across and down. Five letters have been placed to start you off.

S	A	L	A	S
R	A	N	N	A
M	A	L	O	S
O	B	A	M	A
V	A	S	O	S

			A	
		O		
	O			
				S
L				

SOLUTIONS

9-er
9-letter word: DAUGHTERS. Tar, Guard, Usher.

X is to Y
1. Goat, 2. Dog, 3. Waist.

Mindbender
280 metres of wool.

Mirror Image
A is the mirror image.

Split Decision >

F	L	A	N	K
O		S		E
R	E	S	I	T
U		E		C
M	A	T	C	H

Crossword
ACROSS: 1 Precious few. 13 Sprint. 14 Onward. 16 Bear. 17 Going over. 18 Light. 19 Dove. 20 Seventeen. 22 Brace. 23 Reprimand. 27 Pattern. 30 Angela. 31 Reed. 32 Tense. 35 Bean. 36 Pendant. 38 Ease. 39 Rapidly. 42 Shored. 45 Three. 46 Stopped. 47 Garb. 48 Iris. 50 Goggles. 52 Robin. 54 Rather. 56 Related. 57 Stag. 59 Present. 61 Cost. 64 Spots. 66 Tall. 67 Turned. 69 Trusted. 72 In private. 73 Stamp. 74 Candidate. 79 Stir. 81 Range. 82 Carried on. 83 Lash. 85 Trying. 86 Strain. 87 Plain-spoken.
DOWN: 1 Free. 2 Scarce. 3 Sought. 4 Aspired. 5 Hedge. 6 Appreciate. 7 Silly. 8 Staggered. 9 Posters. 10 Awed. 11 Prevents. 15 Averse. 21 Erase. 24 Meeting. 25 Unfair. 26 Presto. 28 Tenor. 29 Rap. 33 On stage. 34 Wander. 37 Tiers. 40 Large. 41 Spinney. 43 Horse. 44 Dogged. 46 Scrap. 49 Shatter. 51 Lately. 53 Skewed. 55 Tacks. 58 Get stuck in. 60 Tar. 62 Sheet. 63 Cantonese. 65 Puncture. 68 Remark. 70 Average. 71 Maudlin. 75 Danish. 76 Dollop. 77 Fears. 78 Filly. 80 Rail. 84 Sees.

Impossipuzzles
1. Elsie 20 years, Ron 49 years; 2. Roy had £1.70; 3. 40 miles per hour.

Circlegram
A: The letter represented by the question mark is R. Kuerten, Ferrero, Bruguera, all French Open winners.
B: The letter represented by the question mark is C. Versace, Cavalli, Moschino, all Italian fashion designers.

Alphamuddle
Banal, Aroma, Novas, Amass, Lasso.

Sudoku

6	5	2	9	3	8	7	1	4
9	8	7	4	1	2	5	6	3
4	3	1	5	7	6	9	8	2
8	1	3	7	2	9	4	5	6
7	6	5	3	8	4	2	9	1
2	4	9	1	6	5	3	7	8
1	7	4	8	5	3	6	2	9
3	2	8	6	9	7	1	4	5
5	9	6	2	4	1	8	3	7

Match of the Day
10.20pm
Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Newcastle United v Arsenal at St James' Park and Manchester City v West Bromwich Albion at the Etihad Stadium. The Gunners continued their quest for a top-four finish away to the mid-table Magpies.

Murder on the Victorian Railway
8.15pm
Drama-documentary examining the death of banker Thomas Briggs in July 1864, which was the first murder to be committed on a British train. The film uses testimonies from court transcripts, memoirs, letters and newspaper reports to tell the story of the crime.

You're Back in the Room
8.25pm
Five contestants team up to win a potential £25,000 by completing four seemingly simple challenges. The only thing standing between them and success is their own minds, as they have each been hypnotised by illusionist Keith Barry. Phillip Schofield hosts.

The Simpsons
6.10pm
Mrs Krabappel writes to Bart's parents about his bad behaviour when he fails to hand in his homework. After a conference with Principal Skinner, Homer insists on punishing his son, but Marge is more sympathetic, inspiring a scheming Bart to start pitting them against each other.

NCIS
8.05pm
A marine's teeth and fingertips are found in a pickpocket's stolen purse, and Ducky discovers he had been tortured on a rack before dying. The agents realise he may have been killed in error, and that the real target was his ex-girlfriend who unwittingly uncovered a mysterious code.

BBC1

6.00 **Breakfast.**
10.00 **Saturday Kitchen Live.** James Martin is joined by chefs Galton Blackiston and Sabrina Ghayour, as well as comedian Johnny Vegas, who faces either food heaven or food hell on the show's 400th episode.
11.30 **Football Focus.** Dan Walker and guests look ahead to the weekend's fixtures, which include Liverpool v Manchester United and Hull City v Chelsea.
12.00 **BBC News;** Weather.
12.10 **Live Six Nations Rugby Union.** Italy v Wales (Kick-off 12.30pm). The final day of the championship gets under way with this clash at the Stadio Olimpico, as Wales look for a third away win of the tournament.
2.25 **Live Six Nations Rugby Union.** Scotland v Ireland (Kick-off 2.30pm). Coverage of the second of today's three fixtures comes from Murrayfield, as the nations play their final match of the campaign.
4.30 **Live Six Nations Rugby Union.** England v France (Kick-off 5.00pm). This year's championship reaches a climax at Twickenham, where the final standings will be decided.
7.00 **BBC News.**
7.10 **Midlands Today; Weather.**
7.15 **The Voice UK.** Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present the first live round of the singing contest, in which the 12 remaining acts perform for a place in the semi-final. After all three acts in each team have performed, Tom Jones, Will.i.am, Rita Ora and Ricky Wilson will choose one to progress straight through to the next stage of the competition – leaving the remaining two on each team to go head to head in a public vote. There are also performances by two star guests – Olly Murs, and last year's winner Jermain Jackman, with his new single How Will I Know.
9.15 **The National Lottery Live.** Gaby Roslin reveals the results of the Lotto and Thunderball draws.
9.25 **The Voice UK Results.** Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present as Tom Jones, Will.i.am, Rita Ora and Ricky Wilson lose one act each.
10.00 **BBC News;** Weather.
10.20 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Newcastle United v Arsenal and Manchester City v West Bromwich Albion; **National Lottery Update.**
11.45 **The Football League Show.** Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Bournemouth v Middlesbrough.
1.05 FILM: **Virus (1999).** A salvage tug crew boards an abandoned Russian vessel and encounters a deadly alien life form composed of pure energy. Sci-fi thriller, with Jamie Lee Curtis and Donald Sutherland.
2.35 **Weather for the Week Ahead.**
2.40 **BBC News.**

BBC2

7.10 FILM: **Safari (1956).** A hunter whose son was murdered by Kenyan terrorists spots a chance for revenge when a wealthy eccentric asks him to lead a safari. Adventure, with Victor Mature and Roland Culver.
8.40 **Six Nations Rewind.** John Inverdale presents archive rugby union highlights. (R)
9.40 **The Fred Dibnah Story.** The former steeplejack looks back on his life. Last in the series. (R)
10.10 **Fred Dibnah's Magnificent Monuments.** (R)
10.40 **The Nature of Britain.** (R)
11.30 **A Taste of Britain.** Janet Street-Porter and Brian Turner explore Somerset.
12.00 **A Taste of Britain.** Janet Street-Porter and Brian Turner visit Oxfordshire.
12.30 **Alec Guinness: Talking Pictures.** A profile of Oscar-winning actor Alec Guinness. (R)
1.10 FILM: **The Man in the White Suit (1951).** Satirical Ealing comedy, starring Alec Guinness.
2.35 FILM: **Flight of the Navigator (1986).** Sci-fi adventure, starring Joey Cramer.
4.00 **Escape to the Country.** Jonnie Irwin helps a couple looking for a property in Cornwall. (R)
4.30 **Final Score.** A round-up of this afternoon's football results.
5.15 **Flog It!** From Stapleford Park in Leicestershire.
6.15 **Gardeners' World.** Monty Don tries to revive the fortunes of the once-popular chrysanthemum, while Joe Swift has suggestions for viewers thinking of giving their garden a bit of a spring revamp. (R)
6.45 **Kew on a Plate.** Raymond Blanc and Kate Humble spend a year at the Royal Botanic Gardens trying to re-establish the fruit and vegetable plots that once provided produce for the monarchy. (R)
7.45 **Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring initiates a recruitment campaign, but makes the mistake of leaving Wilson in charge of the poster. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R)
8.15 **Murder on the Victorian Railway.** Drama-documentary examining the death of banker Thomas Briggs in July 1864, which was the first murder to be committed on a British train. Narrated by Toby Jones. (R)
9.15 FILM: **Now Is Good (2012).** Premiere. A teenager dying of leukaemia decides to fit all the experiences of a normal adolescence into the few months she has left. Drama, with Dakota Fanning and Olivia Williams.
10.50 FILM: **Girl with a Pearl Earring (2003).** A maid causes jealousy and friction among the family of the artist Vermeer when she catches the painter's eye. Period drama, with Scarlett Johansson, Colin Firth and Tom Wilkinson.
12.25 FILM: **Michael Collins (1996).** Fact-based drama focusing on the Irish radical who rose to prominence after his involvement in the 1916 Easter Rising against British rule. Starring Liam Neeson and Julia Roberts.
2.25 **This Is BBC2.**

ITV

6.00 **CITV:** Bottom Knocker Street **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street **6.35** Dino Dan **6.45** Dino Dan **7.00** Canimals **7.10** Sooty **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story
7.30 **Scrambled!: Scrambled!** Two hours of children's fun.
7.35 **Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters.** Animated comedy. (R)
7.50 **Scrambled!: Adventure Time.** Fun for children.
8.30 **Scrambled!: Horrid Henry.** Cartoon about a mischievous youngster.
8.50 **Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash.** Animation based on the superhero character.
9.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
10.20 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
11.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
12.30 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
12.35 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
1.40 FILM: **Murder, She Wrote: The Celtic Riddle (2003).** Mystery, starring Angela Lansbury.
3.30 **Secrets from the Sky.** The Roman-built Antonine Wall in central Scotland. Last in the series. (R)
4.00 **Off Their Rockers.** Mo embraces modern fashion. (R)
4.30 **Big Star's Little Star.** With Danny Dyer, Peter Andre and Saira Khan. (R)
5.30 **ITV News Central;** Weather.
5.45 **ITV News and Weather.**
6.00 **You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents. (R)
7.00 **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** Stephen Mulhern finds himself at the mercy of the Geordie duo as they go undercover, and this week's guest announcer is recent Oscars host Neil Patrick Harris.
8.25 **You're Back in the Room.** Five contestants team up to complete four challenges, including serving pints to Coronation Street stars past and present. Phillip Schofield hosts the hypnotism game show.
9.25 **The Jonathan Ross Show.** Russell Crowe talks about The Water Diviner, Elizabeth Hurley discusses The Royals and Lily James reveals what it was like to play Cinderella. Plus, David Mitchell and Chic.
10.30 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
10.45 FILM: **Burn After Reading (2008).** Two gym employees get hold of the manuscript for a CIA agent's tell-all book and try to sell the secrets it contains. The Coen brothers' comedy, with Brad Pitt and George Clooney.
12.30 **Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00 **The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R)
3.45 **ITV Nightscreen.**

Channel 4

6.05 **Trans World Sport.** A look at the rise of Australian NBA star Patty Mills.
7.05 **Cycling: Revolution Series.** Action from the sixth and final round of the series in Manchester.
8.00 **The Morning Line.** Alice Plunkett presents a look ahead to this afternoon's racing at Newbury.
9.00 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray accidentally kills Ally's hamster. (R)
9.30 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Robert is promoted to lieutenant. (R)
10.00 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray laments a missed opportunity. (R)
10.35 **Frasier.** Builders wreck Frasier's apartment. (R)
11.05 **Frasier.** (R)
11.35 **The Big Bang Theory.** (R)
12.00 **The Big Bang Theory.** Bernadette receives her PhD. (R)
12.30 **The Big Bang Theory.** Howard gets caught in a strange argument. (R)
1.00 **Rude(ish) Tube.** Videos include a noisy nightstand.
1.30 **Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Newbury and Kelso.
4.10 **Come Dine with Me.** Caroline Hicky hosts the first party in Stoke-on-Trent. (R)
4.40 **Come Dine with Me.** Paul Condliffe hosts the second party in Stoke-on-Trent. (R)
5.10 **Come Dine with Me.** Linda Jackson hosts the third party in Stoke-on-Trent. (R)
5.45 **Come Dine with Me.** Jay Davies hosts the final party in Stoke-on-Trent. (R)
6.10 **The Simpsons.** When Bart fails to hand in his homework, Homer and Marge receive a letter from the school – prompting their scheming son to play his parents against each other. (R)
6.40 **Channel 4 News.**
7.05 **Selling Off Britain.** Will Hutton argues that business leaders and politicians are selling off some of Britain's best companies for a quick and easy profit, creating a dumbed-down, low-wage Britain.
8.00 **The World's Weirdest Weather.** Icebergs explode in Antarctica, locals film a rare snowstorm in the Saudi Arabian desert, and more than 10,000 seabirds are killed when storms churn up algae in American waters.
9.00 **Richard III: The Princes in the Tower.** In the week of the reburial of Richard III at Leicester Cathedral, this drama-documentary explores the events of 1483, when some claim he killed his own nephews so he could be king.
10.00 FILM: **Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (2012).** Premiere. A man destined to become one of America's greatest presidents devotes his life to battling the undead. Fantasy thriller, starring Benjamin Walker and Dominic Cooper.
12.05 **Alan Carr: Chatty Man.** (R)
1.05 FILM: **Stakeout (1987).** Comedy thriller, starring Richard Dreyfuss.
3.05 **Hollyoaks.** (R)
5.15 **Kirstie's Vintage Gems.** (R)
5.30 **The Common Denominator.** (R)
5.55 **NFL: Rush Zone.**

Channel 5

6.00 **Milkshake!:** Peppa Pig **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas **6.20** Angelina Ballerina **6.35** Pip Ahoy! **6.45** The Mr Men Show **6.55** Chloe's Closet **7.10** Olly the Little White Van **7.15** Make Way for Noddy **7.25** Paw Patrol **7.40** Little Princess **8.00** Wanda and the Alien **8.10** Zack and Quack **8.25** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **8.45** Jelly Jamm **9.00** LazyTown **9.30** Dora and Friends **10.00** The Mr Men Show
10.10 **SpongeBob SquarePants.**
10.45 FILM: **Alpha and Omega (2010).** Animated adventure, with the voice of Justin Long.
12.25 FILM: **Columbo: The Conspirators (1978).** Detective drama, starring Peter Falk.
2.25 **Holiday Love Rats Exposed.** A woman whose Egyptian husband left her a month after getting his British passport. (R)
3.25 **The Woman with 40 Cats – and Other Pet Hoarders.** People whose love of animals has become an obsession. (R)
4.25 **GPs: Behind Closed Doors.** Dr McKenzie offers advice to a patient who has terminal cancer. (R)
5.25 **The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** A man is driven from his home after a campaign by animal rights activists. (R)
6.20 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R)
7.10 **Police Interceptors.** A foul-mouthed pensioner pushes Barry's patience to the limit, Sarah gives a bad-boy biker an early birthday present and Jim's Audi S3 is outclassed by a car 30 years its senior. (R)
8.00 **5 News Weekend.**
8.05 **NCIS.** A marine's teeth and fingertips are found in a pickpocket's stolen purse, but the team discovers the real target may have been his ex-girlfriend, a skilled player of computer games. (R)
9.00 **NCIS.** The agents learn one of their former investigative assistants has been murdered, and had been selling information about how to rob a warehouse. (R)
10.00 **CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** DB and the team investigate the murder of an inmate at Clark County Jail and learn the victim was working as an informant for the district attorney and the FBI.
10.55 **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** Benson and Stabler investigate when a woman appears on a family's doorstep claiming to be their missing daughter, and says she had been abducted and kept as a sex slave. (R)
11.50 **True Crimes: The First 72 Hours.** Investigating whether a movie called The Great Despisers motivated an act of violence in which a teenager's father, mother and autistic sister were brutally murdered. (R)
12.15 **SuperCasino.**
3.10 **The Benefits Estate.** (R)
4.00 **The Gadget Show.** (R)
4.50 **Make It Big.** (R)
5.15 **Angels of Jarm.** (R)
5.20 **Angels of Jarm.** (R)
5.30 **Angels of Jarm.** (R)
5.40 **Roary the Racing Car.** (R)
5.50 **Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

Countryfile

7pm

Adam Henson visits the Isle of Man to find out about one of its most celebrated sons, the 19th-century marine biologist Edward Forbes. He explores rockpools with a group of young enthusiasts, finds out about local farming and goes on a safari to find a creature one wouldn't expect to see here.

Six Nations Greatest Moments

7pm

Gabby Logan presents a celebration of some of the most memorable moments from the rugby union competition, featuring archive action and testimonies from leading players of the past. With contributions from Jonny Wilkinson, Brian O'Driscoll, Gavin and Scott Hastings and Martin Johnson.

Mr Selfridge

9pm

Harry takes a massive gamble with the biggest flash sale in the store's history, while Nancy finds it difficult to keep their engagement a secret from Gus. As Gordon and Grace try to get back on track, Violette is presented with a pragmatic life choice. Miss Mardle and Mr Grove come to blows again.

Indian Summers

9pm

A mountaineer saves Alice, Madeleine and Ronnie from a perilous situation and inveigles his way into Alice's affections, but she's unaware he has an ulterior motive. And when he later reveals he knows the truth about her past he leaves her in no doubt as to what exactly his silence will cost.

The Hotel Inspector

11am

Alex Polizzi visits the First in Last Out, a 17th-century B&B with a pub in Winchester, Hampshire. She refuses to sleep there after seeing an unpleasant shower room, tries to help owner Jon Sweeney realise how inexpensive accommodation should not mean low quality.

BBC1

6.00 **Breakfast.**
7.30 **Match of the Day.** Including highlights of Newcastle United v Arsenal. (R)
9.00 **The Andrew Marr Show.**
10.00 **The Big Questions.** From Patcham High School, Brighton.
11.00 **Sunday Politics.** Presented by Andrew Neil.
12.15 **MOTD2 Extra.** With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team.
1.00 **BBC News;** Weather.
1.15 **Bargain Hunt.** From the Oswestry antiques fair. (R)
2.15 **Homes Under the Hammer.** Properties in the Welsh Valleys, Margate and London. (R)
3.15 **The Truth About Sugar.** Fiona Phillips examines what sugar does to the body. (R)
4.15 **Escape to the Country.** A couple search for a cottage in Herefordshire. (R)
4.45 **Lifeline.** An appeal on behalf of Muscular Dystrophy UK.
4.55 **Songs of Praise.** A behind-the-scenes look at preparations for the reburial of Richard III.
5.30 **BBC News.**
5.50 **Midlands Today; Weather.**
6.00 **The Big Painting Challenge.** The amateurs take on three challenges in Liverpool – capturing the city in watercolour, a sketch of the famous Royal Liver Building clock tower and a painting of the city's skyline.
7.00 **Countryfile.** Adam Henson visits the Isle of Man, finding out about 19th-century naturalist Edward Forbes and local farming. Plus, archive items about different creatures spotted over the years. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** The team visits Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, where items include a 1970s barber's chair, a 12th-century Hindu sculpture and collectibles indirectly related to the Titanic.
9.00 **Poldark.** Ross puts on a brave face when Elizabeth gives birth and is angered by gossip about him and Demelza. Jinny falls pregnant to Jim – but the couple's happiness is short-lived.
10.00 **BBC News.**
10.20 **Midlands Today; Weather.**
10.30 **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman introduces highlights of the latest Premier League matches, featuring Liverpool v Manchester United, Hull City v Chelsea and Queens Park Rangers v Everton.
11.40 **The Football League Show.** Bristol City v Walsall. Manish Bhasin presents highlights of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final at Wembley Stadium, as the League One clubs battled it out for silverware.
12.25 **The Apprentice USA.** The business-based reality show in which candidates from all walks of life are vetted for employment by Donald Trump draws to a close as the winner is announced. Last in the series.
1.45 **Weather for the Week Ahead.**
1.50 **BBC News.**

BBC2

6.00 **Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein.** The horticulturist creates colourful borders. (R)
6.30 **Great British Garden Revival.** Conifers and pelargoniums. (R)
7.30 **Gardeners' World.** (R)
8.00 **Countryfile.** Matt Baker and Helen Skelton visit Northern Ireland. (R)
9.00 **The Football League Show.** Including highlights of Bournemouth v Middlesbrough. (R)
10.20 **Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** Highlights of the series.
11.50 **A Taste of Britain.**
12.20 **Back in Time for Dinner.** A family samples British food from the 1950s to the present day. (R)
1.20 FILM: **Day of the Evil Gun (1968).** Western, starring Glenn Ford.
2.50 **Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em.** Frank takes a job as a motorcycle dispatch rider. (R)
3.30 **Three Up, Two Down.** Sam and Daphne find a new friendship. (R)
4.00 **Hi-de-Hi!** Gladys has a birthday blow-out. (R)
4.35 **The Hairy Bikers and Lorraine Pascale: Cooking the Nation's Favourite Food.** The cooks offer their twists on the UK's 10 best-loved meals. (R)
5.35 **Operation Stonehenge: What Lies Beneath.** Part one of two. A revolutionary project aiming to uncover the secrets of the historical site. (R)
6.35 **Pompidou.** The thoughts of the penniless aristocrat turn to love on Valentine's Day and a chance meeting with a woman from a dating agency means his wishes might just come true.
7.00 **Six Nations Greatest Moments.** Gabby Logan presents a celebration of some of the most memorable moments from the rugby union competition, featuring archive action and testimonies from leading players of the past.
8.00 **Caribbean with Simon Reeve.** New series. The adventurer travels around the islands and mainland coast of the Caribbean Sea, beginning by visiting the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Puerto Rico.
9.00 **Louis Theroux: By Reason of Insanity.** Part one of two. The journalist visits Ohio's maximum security state psychiatric hospitals, meeting patients who have committed crimes while suffering from severe mental illnesses.
10.00 **Bluestone 42.** Nick is called in to rescue a squaddie who has trapped his helmet in an IED tripwire – but things soon take a worrying turn. Elsewhere, Simon makes a life-changing discovery. Previously shown on BBC3.
10.30 FILM: **Red Tails (2012).** Premiere. Black US fighter pilots battle both the German air force and racism in their own ranks. Fact-based Second World War drama, starring Terrence Howard and Cuba Gooding Jr.
12.25 FILM: **Donkeys (2010).** Comedy drama, starring James Cosmo.
1.40 **Sign Zone: Countryfile.** (R)
2.40 **Sign Zone: Holby City.** (R)
3.40 **This Is BBC2.**

ITV

6.00 **CITV:** Bottom Knocker Street **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street **6.35** Dino Dan **7.00** Canimals **7.10** Sooty **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story
7.30 **Scrambled!: Scrambled!** Two hours of children's fun.
7.35 **Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters.** Animated comedy. (R)
7.50 **Scrambled!: The Aquabats! Super Show!** Action comedy. (R)
8.30 **Scrambled!: Horrid Henry.** Cartoon about a mischievous youngster.
8.50 **Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash.** Animation based on the superhero character.
9.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
10.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
11.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
12.30 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
12.45 **Murder, She Wrote.** A killing is linked to an abduction 11 years previously. (R)
1.45 FILM: **Fletch Lives (1989).** Comedy sequel, starring Chevy Chase.
3.30 **River Monsters.** Jeremy Wade visits the site of the Chernobyl disaster. (R)
4.00 FILM: **Twister (1996).** Action thriller, with Helen Hunt and Bill Paxton.
6.05 **ITV News Central;** Weather.
6.15 **ITV News and Weather.**
6.30 **The Chase: Celebrity Special.** Coronation Street actress Samia Ghadie (Maria Connor), The Last Leg's Alex Brooker, presenter Annabel Giles and comedian Julian Clary take on a trivia expert. Bradley Walsh hosts. (R)
7.30 **Off Their Rockers.** Royston invents the ultimate mobile phone case, Paul tests out the world's most powerful leaf blower, and Seb steals flowers from a funeral.
8.00 **All Star Family Fortunes.** Hollyoaks actor Kieron Richardson (Ste Hay) and This Morning presenter Ruth Langsford team up with their families in an attempt to win thousands for charity. Vernon Kay hosts.
9.00 **Mr Selfridge.** Nancy has difficulty keeping her engagement to Harry a secret from Gus, and a meddling Princess Marie makes things even trickier. Miss Mardle and Mr Grove come to blows again.
10.00 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
10.15 **Bear Grylls: Mission Survive.** The four remaining celebrities forage for food in the forest, endure another stormy night and face their most extreme challenge yet – crossing a 200ft ravine one by one on a rope. (R)
11.20 **LV= Cup Rugby Union.** Gethin Jones presents action from the final at Franklin's Gardens in Northampton, where the successors to Exeter Chiefs were set to be decided.
12.15 **The Store.** Home shopping.
2.30 **The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R)
3.15 **ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.
5.05 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)

Channel 4

6.20 **How I Met Your Mother.** Ted walks out of his mother's wedding.
6.45 **How I Met Your Mother.** Don asks Robin to move in with him.
7.10 **How I Met Your Mother.** Lily and Marshall discuss having children.
7.35 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Robert dates a younger woman. (R)
8.00 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray overhears his in-laws discussing marriage counselling. (R)
8.30 **Frasier.** Part two of two. Kate and Frasier decide to take their relationship slowly. (R)
9.00 **Frasier.** Niles reaches the end of his tether with Maris. (R)
9.30 **Sunday Brunch.** With Rick Edwards, Rachael Stirling, Danny Dyer, Helen Monks and Alexa Davies.
12.30 **George Clarke's Amazing Spaces.** A man transforming a private jet into a crash pad. (R)
1.30 **The Big Bang Theory.** Sheldon punishes Leonard for a past mistake. (R)
2.00 **The Simpsons.** Homer reminisces about life with Marge. (R)
2.30 **The Simpsons.** Homer plays matchmaker for Marge's sister. (R)
3.00 FILM: **The Spy Next Door (2010).** Comedy, starring Jackie Chan.
4.50 **Channel 4 News.**
5.10 **Richard III: The Return of the King.** The procession of the monarch's remains to Leicester Cathedral.
8.00 **Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales embark on a voyage of discovery through their home city of London, meeting fellow actors Andrew Sachs and Ian McKellen along the way.
9.00 **Indian Summers.** A mountaineer with an ulterior motive inveigles his way into Alice's affections, while Darius puts pressure on Roshana to accept Sita into the Dalal family fold.
10.00 **Gogglebox.** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)
11.00 FILM: **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 1 (2011).** Vampire Edward and human Bella get married, but her subsequent pregnancy has dangerous implications. Romantic fantasy sequel, with Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson.
1.15 FILM: **Bruno (2009).** Spoof documentary, starring Sacha Baron Cohen.
2.35 **Come Dine with Me.** (R)
3.00 **Come Dine with Me.** Teacher Matthew Nichols hosts the second party in Manchester. (R)
3.30 **Come Dine with Me.** Jane Bates hosts the third dinner party in Manchester. (R)
4.00 **Come Dine with Me.** (R)
4.25 **Come Dine with Me.** (R)
4.50 **River Cottage Veg Heroes.** Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall reflects on his vegetarian summer. (R)
5.20 **Kirstie's Vintage Gems.** (R)
5.35 **The Common Denominator.** (R)

Channel 5

6.00 **Milkshake!:** Peppa Pig **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas **6.20** Angelina Ballerina **6.35** Pip Ahoy! **6.45** The Mr Men Show **6.55** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures **7.00** Chloe's Closet **7.15** Olly the Little White Van **7.20** Make Way for Noddy **7.30** Paw Patrol **7.45** Little Princess **8.00** Wanda and the Alien **8.10** Zack and Quack **8.25** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **8.45** Jelly Jamm **9.00** LazyTown **9.30** Dora and Friends
10.00 **SpongeBob SquarePants.** Double bill. SpongeBob makes an exact replica of Squidward's house.
10.35 **The Dog Rescuers.** A Grimsby inspector finds two puppies locked in a dirty bathroom. (R)
11.00 **The Hotel Inspector.** A 17th-century B&B in Winchester. (R)
12.00 **The Hotel Inspector.** A B&B in Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire. (R)
12.55 FILM: **Phenomenon (1996).** Fantasy drama, starring John Travolta.
3.20 FILM: **The Borrowers (1997).** Children's fantasy, starring John Goodman.
5.00 FILM: **A Cinderella Story (2004).** Romantic comedy, starring Hilary Duff and Chad Michael Murray.
6.50 **5 News Weekend.**
6.55 FILM: **Lara Croft: Tomb Raider – The Cradle of Life (2003).** The daredevil heroine hunts for Pandora's Box before an evil scientist finds it and uses it as a deadly weapon. Action adventure sequel, starring Angelina Jolie and Gerard Butler. Edited for language and violence.
9.00 FILM: **Alex Cross (2012).** Premiere. A homicide detective pursues an assassin on a killing spree who leaves surreal clues to the identity of his next victim. Crime thriller, with Tyler Perry and Matthew Fox.
11.05 FILM: **Scream 4 (2011).** Three-time massacre survivor Sidney Prescott faces a new masked killer marking the 15th anniversary of the original murders. Horror sequel, starring Neve Campbell and Emma Roberts.
1.10 **SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.10 **The Restaurant Inspector.** Fernando Peire tries to help the owner of an Afro-Caribbean restaurant in Sheffield save his ailing business, but has difficulty convincing him that major changes are required. (R)
4.00 **House Doctor.** A couple from Milton Keynes hope to move to France. (R)
4.25 **Make It Big.** The team is under intense pressure to sell tickets. (R)
4.50 **Make It Big.** The children begin their final week. (R)
5.15 **Angels of Jarm.** The children argue about their hats. (R)
5.20 **Angels of Jarm.** Angel Mick helps at a playgroup picnic. (R)
5.30 **Angels of Jarm.** Angel Ellie arrives on Jam. (R)
5.40 **Roary the Racing Car.** Big Chris struggles to find time to relax. (R)
5.50 **Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

Scramble to see big acts as they go on tour

AUDIENCES are scrambling to see top names in music as they head to the Midlands in the coming months, with Boyzone among those topping the bill in Telford.

The other big name acts on their way to the region include Tom Jones, Paul McCartney, Madonna, Bette Midler and Sir Elton John.

As the best-selling acts of the 60s and 70s move into the twilight of their careers, they are shifting thousands of tickets for higher prices than ever. And you could end up paying a three-figure sum for two hours in their company.

Tickets for McCartney's show at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham nearly sold out just a week after they were released. The front row – at £141 each – are all gone, but a handful of "cheap seats" are still available at £73 a pop. Prices for Madonna's show at the same venue in December range from £40 to £197.

Promoters argue that prices are increasing because people are willing to pay – especially when they get the chance to hear some of the greatest songs of all time played by the stars who wrote them.

Tom Jones took music fans by surprise by announcing a concert at Betley Court Farm near Stoke on August 14, and Elton has caused a stir in Walsall with his show at the Banks's Stadium in June. The likes of the Rolling Stones, Rod Stewart and Neil Diamond have been playing big arenas every few years since the 1980s. And the death of an iconic frontman has proved no obstacle for Queen, who are now on their second replacement for Freddie Mercury with American Idol winner Adam Lambert.

The latest incarnation of Queen sold out the Barclaycard Arena in January, and Diamond heads to the Genting Arena in July, where the reformed Fleetwood Mac also have three summer shows planned.

Boyzone will perform in Telford Town Park on June 27. Early bird tickets are £25 for adults and £20 for children up to the age of 16. The offer lasts until March 31.

Railway is on track to greet royal passenger

LOCOMOTIVES at the Severn Valley Railway will be buffed and polished in preparation for the arrival of The Princess Royal soon.

Her Royal Highness Princess Anne will take her first trip along the Severn Valley Railway next month.

Princess Anne will meet staff, volunteers, founding members and apprentices, as well as being invited to ride on the footplate of one of the railway's steam engines on April 13.

The visit coincides with line being voted Heritage Site of the Year title in the BBC Countryfile Magazine Awards.

A welcome party of dignitaries and SVR representatives will welcome Princess Anne and her escort, the Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire, at Bewdley, where she will also meet a group of SVR pioneers and young volunteers before taking to the tracks. The Princess, who visited the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford in January, will be invited to don a dust coat and gloves, and climb aboard the footplate of one of the SVR's resident steam locomotives, or to sit in the observation saloon for the journey to Kidderminster.

Nick Ralls, the SVR's general manager, said: "We are absolutely delighted to be able to welcome the Princess Royal to the railway and to be given the opportunity to demonstrate how much the SVR has grown and developed during its 50 years in operation.

"Her Royal Highness has revealed her enthusiasm for heritage steam, so we are very excited to be able to offer her the opportunity to travel along the line for the first time.

"We have a whole host of events and activities taking place this year to mark our Golden Jubilee, and this Royal visit is such a wonderful highlight."

The SVR is currently celebrating 50 years since a group of rail enthusiasts gathered in a pub and decided to reopen the line, which was closed in 1963.

Inside the roof offers spectacular views of the city

The beautiful Old Watermill in Den Gamle By

The super rainbow panorama on the roof of ARoS

You'll be streets ahead on visit to second city

WHEN you're competing for tourists with Copenhagen, Denmark's second city Aarhus needs to offer something rather special.

And it does.

No wonder the city is looking forward to being the European Capital of Culture in 2017.

When it comes to the arts, history, culture, nightlife and shopping, this is a destination with huge appeal, plus with daily Ryanair flights from as little as £19.99 one-way it's surprisingly affordable too.

Aarhus is an ancient sea port, founded by the Vikings in the eighth century, but it has become something of a cultural powerhouse in modern times with thought-provoking and eye-catching attractions and a thriving street scene.

Style

It's claimed everything in Aarhus is within walking distance and it's true.

My tired feet can vouch for that. During the three days we spent in the city we took in the port, the historic Latin Quarter, museums, restaurants and some excellent shopping.

Our visit coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Aarhus Festival at the end of August, when for 10 days the town celebrates music, food, film, theatre, visual arts and holds outdoor events for all ages.

One night we ate festival burgers at the pop-up eaterie Festugegrillerier and drank honey beer made with honey from hives on the Scandic City Hotel rooftop.

Another night we dined in style at Herman's in the popular amusement park Tivoli Friheden which had been transformed into a nightclub for the festival.

Scandinavia generally has a reputation for being expensive, but prices in Aarhus were pretty much on a par with London, apart from alcohol, which was a bit more expensive. Whatever your take on modern

HOLIDAYS

Report by Karen Knowles

art, the spectacular rainbow panorama at the art museum ARoS is a must. Offering a 360-degree viewing platform, the circular rainbow-coloured glass walkway has become an iconic symbol for the city.

If history is your thing, save time for the popular attraction Den Gamle By "The Old Town".

Founded in 1909, it is the world's first open-air museum of urban history and culture.

We stayed at the newly-opened Comwell Aarhus. The rooms offer impressive views of the city over 12 floors and the hotel is in a central location, again within walking distance of all the main attractions.

It was great to be able to dash back with our shopping and freshen up before heading back into the festival melee.

For tourism information go to www.visitaarhus.com

Ryanair has direct flights from London Stansted to Aarhus airport and Billund airport from £19.99 one way.

To book the 240-room four-star hotel Comwell Aarhus go to www.comwellaarhus.dk or for the Hotel Scandic Aarhus City visit www.scandichotels.com/Hotels/Denmark/Aarhus

New app

A new iOS app from hotel search engine Booking.com is set to change the way we book last-minute accommodation.

The app, Booking Now, will automatically generate hotel options based on the user's location and preferences

It's been launched after the company's research revealed that in 2014, 47 per cent of all UK hotel bookings made within 48 hours were via mobiles (and 50 per cent of all bookings worldwide).

It will feature more than 600,000 properties in 70,000 destinations. It's free from itunes.apple.com

A thriving street scene: The bustling Latin Quarter in the busy city of Aarhus

Three spectacular spring gardens to open for visitors

THREE lovely spring gardens in Shropshire will be open in the coming weeks for the National Gardens Scheme (NGS) raising money for cancer and nursing charities.

David Bromley's beautiful spring garden at Moortown near Wellington will be open for the National Gardens Scheme on Sunday, March 29 (2pm-5pm); visitors will be met by a plant-packed landscape full of early colour with some delightful and unusual species of plants.

David describes his garden as being "controlled confusion" where plants mingle and create a palette of colours. Plus there is plenty of spring blossom from cherries, magnolias and other spring flowerers.

Moortown is off the B5062 between High Ercall and Crudington; admission is £4 for adults, free to children. Afternoon teas will be available.

"This lovely garden is at its prime at this time of year," explains Chris Neil, organiser of NGS in Shropshire,

The lovely spring blossom at the garden at Moortown

"when most gardens are still dormant, Moortown is a riot of colour proving that David is a very talented plantsman." Another spring garden – Radnor Cottage will be open to visitors on Tuesday, April 7 (2pm-6pm) for NGS and shows the result of another plant expert and an engineer working together over many years to create an outstanding garden on a challenging slope.

Overlooking the Clun valley, Radnor Cottage has wonderful views and a multitude of spring flowers including a vast spread of fritillaries in the orchard meadow.

Radnor Cottage is on the B4368 1 mile from Clun. Admission is £3 for adults, free to children. It has a comprehensive plant sale – mostly raised by the owners – plus afternoon teas.

Edge Villa (near Yockleton) will have an unscheduled "pop-up" opening on Sunday, April 12 (2pm-5pm) for NGS with a large plant sale, refreshments and a lovely cottage-style garden to wander around. More details at www.ngs.org.uk. Edge Villa is at Edge, near Yockleton, six miles southwest of Shrewsbury. Admission is £3 for adults, free to children. It has a large plant sale and afternoon teas.

Any tips for days out, holidays or places to visit? Email your ideas to lisa.bailey@shropshirestar.co.uk

Wonderful spectacle may be hare today, gone tomorrow

ON THE WILDSIDE

with Ben Waddams

MARCH is certainly the month to get down to your local patch of open, rough ground.

That may not sound particularly inviting but a field that's been left to grow a little tussocky with minimal grazing and certainly no intensive agriculture on it allows wildlife a chance to truly show off. .

Brown hares are the mammal of the moment with their familiarly cited 'mad' bouts occurring around about now.

Familiarly cited in literature they may be, but it truly is a wonderful spectacle to go and see for yourself. Seeing as it is the second fastest declining mammal in the British Isles (down 80 per cent in 100 years) time could be running out for a ringside seat.

These boxing matches tend to be the female warding off the amorous advances of the male, although occasionally two males will size each other up in a similar way. People are often confused about whether they've seen a hare or its close cousin the rabbit and these sparring sessions will certainly help alleviate any confusion between the two species.

In addition to this, hares are solitary, not colonial, and don't burrow. They create shallow resting places in fields or long grass known as 'forms' and it is in these forms that the young are born, open-eyed and ready to run. These characteristics are in stark contrast to rabbits, who live together in communities and are well known for burrowing underground. Hares are not just prevalent at this time of the year because of their famous behaviour. The tradition of the Easter bunny originates from West-European cultures, where it is a hare rather than a rabbit that delivers the eggs.

German Protestants had an abundance of eggs because of them being forbidden to Catholics during the fast of Lent. This therefore meant that there were an abundance of eggs at Easter time. It will come as no surprise to you that hares of course are not known for their association with eggs and yet if you find your rough bit of ground and are lucky enough to see a hare or two, you may also have the bonus of have your audible senses assailed from up on high. Skylarks are currently singing their hearts out above such patches of ground and unlike the hares, their cause is all to do with eggs. Skylarks are the very voice of the UK spring. They have a beautiful song that radiates through the air as the bird itself hangs suspended somewhere overhead.

And although it may sound stunning, there is nothing more to the song than a defiantly strong territorial display. This can last up to five minutes while the male reaches the pinnacle of its flight before slowly descending. The skylark is doing much better than the hare in numbers, theirs are only down by 50 per cent. See them both while you can.

Check out Ben's work online at benwaddams.com

Caught red handed – oil on board – by Ben Waddams

Call made for teams to take part in river fun

A CALL has gone out for teams from the Oswestry area to enter the Macmillan Coracle World Championships in Shropshire – with organisers setting their sights on a record-breaking year.

The event is in its seventh year and sees teams battle their way across the River Severn in traditional coracles, with the winners being declared world champions.

All proceeds go towards supporting people affected by cancer in Shropshire, and organisers have set a fundraising target of £40,000 which would be the highest total ever raised at the event.

This year's event will take place at Pengwern Boat Club in Shrewsbury on the afternoon of September 11, which is later than previous years, but teams are being encouraged to sign up as soon as possible to avoid missing out.

Sponsors are also being sought, with individual coracles and the event itself available for sponsorship.

Helen Knight, fundraising manager for Macmillan in Shropshire, said: "The coracle world championship is one of the highlights of the year for us and is always fantastic fun.

"We are really hoping for a record-breaking year, so we are putting an early call-out for teams to sign up.

"The event is open to teams of four and is a brilliant team-building exercise for businesses as well as being a great way of raising money for an important cause.

"It's a wonderful family day out, and teams are encouraged to bring as many supporters as they can.

"As in previous years, there will be a bar and barbecue at Pengwern Boat Club, as well as children's activities running throughout the afternoon.

"We are also on the look-out for a headline sponsor which helps us cover the costs of organising the event, and of course provides a great opportunity for a business to raise their profile too."

Over the past seven years, the coracle championships have raised more than £150,000 for Macmillan services in Shropshire. Entry is £100 per team, and each team is asked to raise at least £300 in sponsorship.

Each year in Shropshire and Staffordshire, 8,369 people are diagnosed with cancer, and it is estimated that 109,100 people will be living with or beyond cancer by 2030.

To enter a team or for more details on sponsorship opportunities, email coracleworldchampionships@gmail.com or call 07977 864278.

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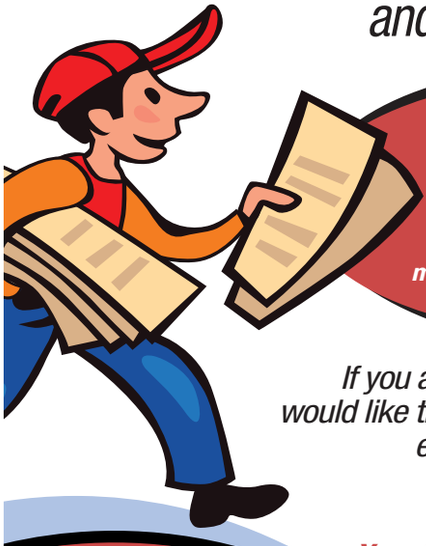

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Women seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

HELEN feisty redhead with many interests including beach walks and quiet nights in, looking for male with GSOH and a passion for travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413869**

ASIAN lady, single, 32 yrs old, WLTM professional man, 32+, for friendship, maybe more. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 44468368**

ANN slim attractive widowed but not past being loved lady, loves travel, country good conversation, WLTM kind genuine male, 35-65 for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413453**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel No: 0905 002 1883 Box No: 413399**

JANET tall beautiful brunette, slim 12, separated, enjoys life, no hang ups, wanting quality time, friendship and possible romance with similar guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413415**

ADVENTUROUS sexy lady, 38yrs, married but seeks no strings fun with discreet man, any age. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. **Tel No: 0905 002 1937 Box No: 415301**

ANITA seeking nice man in the West Midlands, 50-70 for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413765**

ANNE, mid 40's, cheerful busty cuvy affectionate real woman! Seeks gent, any age or looks for nights at mine. **Tel No: 0905 002 1953 Box No: 410291**

SONYA slim attractive vibrant lady with GSOH, social nature, fit/active, WLTM N/S male up to 60yrs for romantic genuine respectful relationship, loving. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413441**

DISCREET lady, 42yrs wants to make you happy, come to me and let me do that for you. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 409901**

EMMA petite slim blue eyed blonde 22yrs, likes cinema, dancing/music, just chillin, seeking easygoing male for fun and good times but nothing serious. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413207**

TARA, confident lady, long legs, long hair, seeks a saucy man of any age for daytime, no strings fun. **Tel No: 0905 002 1913 Box No: 414701**

EUROPEAN beauty romantic, caring, attentive, looking for loving male to enjoy warm loving relationship with, call me to find out more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413013**

KELLY, 42yrs, loves to chat and flirt with guys on-line and by text. **Box No: 4656847**

KAREN 34 blue/green eyed size 12 attractive brunette who loves pubs, cosy nights in, kids, seeking special honest guy/dad for poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413005**

STACY, 51yrs, new to area, hopes to meet new friends, any age for fun and friendship. **Box No: 4656848**

ROSA 27 sexy senorita seeking older handsome prince charming to whisk me off my feet, enjoy fun times, improve my English and fall in love with. Age/race unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412927**

MARY, 32yrs, attractive brunette loves older mature gents who have lots of interests. **Box No: 4656849**

RITA attractive blonde with a very kind heart seeks special man to share my life with. Please get in touch if like me you are fed up with always being the single friend. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412987**

CAROLINE, sophisticated feminine lady, just turned 40 and wants to meet new friends. **Box No: 4656850**

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, slim, 57, nurse, looking for someone to look after me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410543**

JAN 5ft8ins slim pretty lady in great shape, openminded, laidback, GSOH, OHAC, many interests, WLTM someone for cuddling up with and to share good and bad times. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412931**

JANE, bored at home, doesn't get out much and wants flirty chats, she's 39 but looks younger. **Box No: 4656851**

ANN slim attractive N/S lady who is easy to get along with, looking for romantic interesting man for new adventures together, hopefully ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412911**

MINDY, American lady moved to UK and looking to meet British chap for chats, fun, more. **Box No: 4656853**

JULIE loving, caring, honest, seeks real gent to share conversation and have a great time, friendship/relationship, who knows? **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412777**

SOPHIE is 35yrs, blonde, attractive, chatty and flirtations. Please text if you want to hear more. **Box No: 4656854**

SALLY stunning lady looking for dinner dates, partying and generally having a good time with generous man looking for his mojo! No strings, go on call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412599**

LINDY, broadminded mid 40's lady loves to chat about anything with anyone. **Box No: 4656858**

DEBS petite attractive auburn haired, good listener, romantic, enjoys socialising, cosy nights in with Mr Right, seeking similar caring N/S single dad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412387**

BARBARA, caring lady, 54yrs, doesn't get out much, works nights, looking for daytime chats with men any age. **Box No: 4656855**

JAN slim curvy professional warm, affectionate, looking to fill full time vacancy with similar male who loves cuddles/kisses and bikes for romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412167**

ATTRACTIVE slim brunette, 47, N/S, seeks tall, slim male for a cut above the average relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412725**

KAREN pretty blonde, short in stature, big personality, keeps fit, loves dogs, seeking honest, caring male who can make me laugh. Nothing too serious just fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412377**

JEAN petite female who enjoys golf, days out, cosy evenings in, holidays, WLTM older male in his 60's with a good personality and big heart. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412359**

JULIE really fun loving slim pretty female 38 looking for nice guy to go out with, get to know and hopefully enjoy a relationship with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411517**

GWENDOLINE honest, trustworthy, seeks caring gent who enjoys cinema, theatre, holidays and nights out for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412293**

WIDOW 68, 5ft 5ins, medium build, attractive, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere, N/S male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411745**

DIANE voluptuous curvy and all woman, loves dancing, walking, cosy nights in, WLTM nice man for friendship, hopefully leading to something more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412321**

SARA bored blonde looking for single gents for fun, chats and meets, looking forward to hearing from you, don't be shy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412055**

EMMA petite young looking 31yr old attractive single brunette, loves walking, talking, music, seeks honest romantic 30-40yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412037**

ANNABELL 29 slim sophisticated well travelled interesting sensual fit brunette with lots to offer seeks older male to appreciate and treat me well. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412177**

KAREN slim, tall, attractive 36yr old normal female who likes shopping, socialising, nights in/out seeking thoughtful genuine male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412041**

KIM 25yrs feminine, pretty, big blue eyes, GSOH, varied interests, likes romantic beach walks, cosy nights in, seeking honest loving man for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411777**

CAROL young 47, caring, loyal, likes music, concerts, cinema, theatre, seeks male with similar interests for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411919**

PROFESSIONAL black lady, likes cooking, music, countryside, seeking honest, reliable gent, possibly farmer for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411763**

VICKY 37yr professional, mum to one, sensual and very attractive, looking for a real man, tall, fit, sincere and passionate to enjoy each other's company. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411695**

LUCY beautiful busty bubbly blonde 32yrs, seeking naughty boy to enjoy the fun side of life with, age, status and looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411691**

LINDA single and living alone, attractive, young looking, bubbly, WLTM similar young at heart companion to be close with, enjoy chats and romantic dates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410119**

JEAN young at heart lady, active, 70 plus, N/S, GSOH, likes walks, gardening, outings, WLTM sincere, caring male, 69-74 for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411711**

TINA sexy black female looking for healthy distractions with fun adult companion, interested? You won't be disappointed, give me a call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411519**

LYNNE young looking attractive Indian female with GSOH and down to earth attitude, looking for likeminded male for date nights, hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411219**

EMMIE 50, attractive brunette, 5ft 3ins, OHAC, likes country walks, music, reading, seeks genuine, friendly, professional male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411281**

RETIRED happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind chap, Shropshire. **0906 500 3724 Box No: 411459**

BUBBLY 60 plus lady, slim, fair hair, comfy in jeans and leather jacket, seeks similar male for friendship etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 408859**

RITA naughty 40's petite pretty female looking for that special man in my life, any age, to get to know and see what happens, you only live once remember! **0906 500 3724 Box No: 410959**

SUE 34, likes most things in life, even football! looking for my Mr Wonderful thought I would give this a try. Come on what do we have to loose, call me. **0906 500 3724 Box No: 410765**

CAROL slim attractive blonde, sporty, easy going, broadminded looking for likeminded male with plenty of va va voom, 35-45. **0906 500 3724 Box No: 409717**

SUSAN 64, lively, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **0906 500 3724 Box No: 411329**

SUE 38, attractive broadminded attentive, enjoys meals in/out etc, not necessarily looking for Mr Right as Mr Wrong or even Mr Right now could be fun! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411049**

ANGIE attractive slim blonde just looking for a lovely spontaneous guy who like me just wants good company and a nice relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410641**

KATHERINE 35yr old outgoing single female looking to enjoy dates with similar male also looking for fun times in or out. Age, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410565**

PAULINE attractive divorced female with no ties, employed with my own home, likes nights in/out, lots of tlc to give to the right person, call me for a chat, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411039**

JEN attractive sensual petite blonde with OHAC seeks confident fit professional male to enjoy and share good times, if that's you pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410949**

ARE you dark or bald, with hairy chest, well built, educated, verbal, articulate dom or sub, broadminded and ready to be put in your place? Curious to find out more? call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410637**

29YR old black beautiful busty tall loving very sensual lady, likes football, making friends, seeking genuine white male for enjoyable loving relationship. pls no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410577**

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410847**

CAROL 38 attractive romantic not looking for fairy tales just happy endings, seeking lovely male to put the sparkle back into my life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410721**

CLAIRE voluptuous tall feminine attractive lady who loves good company, fine wine/food, travel, WLTM tall professional for romance dates and hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410627**

MICHELLE 37, looking for laughter fun and romance with the right guy, if you could be him and have nothing to loose call me for a chat. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410415**

TAYLOR 21 black beautiful classy intelligent, loves to have lots of fun and enjoy life to the full, seeking mature guy to make me happy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409911**

WENDY 50, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, likes music, meals out, seeks white male, 45-55 with similar interests and GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410499**

73YR old Hereford lady, GSOH, young at heart, many interests, seeks caring, genuine gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410331**

NICKY bubbly curvy fun blonde, varied interests, enjoys meals out, holidays, seeking N/S male with GSOH for possible ltr. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410479**

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTM for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easy going guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410461**

LIZ 5ft 7ins, attractive, outgoing, likes walks, dogs, cooking, seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410395**

ZOE 25 long haired sensual female, very naughty, broadminded and open, looking for similar fun guy for uncomplicated adult meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409719**

JANE attractive, feminine open-minded mature female genuinely looking for adult fun. No time wasters please. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409715**

JILL 50, attractive, 5ft, blonde, own home, no ties, likes films, reading, travel, music, good social circle, seeking that someone special. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410105**

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, 56, enjoys country walks, meals out, seeks professional gent with GSOH to enjoy the good things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409895**

ELAINE attractive 39yr old blonde single mum seeking respectful male/dad with similar interests for adult friendship, hopefully leading to love. looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410117**

DONNA 27yrs blue eyed blonde with cute dimpled smile, loves socialising but looking for that special someone with GSOH to cuddle up with, enjoy fun/good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409733**

MARGARET OHAC, professional, sincere, adventurous, loving, kind, solvent lady who enjoys most things WLTM caring male with similar refined tastes. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 407925**

ATTRACTIVE 49yr old divorced lady, looking for honest, reliable man for LTR, 49-60. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409955**

ABBA girl blonde lookalike, size 16, attractive, bubbly, OHAC, seeking solvent, refined, handsome guy with full head of hair, 5ft 9ins plus, professional and courteous. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409151**

NEETA Black beauty, classy, intelligent 21yrs, loves to enjoy life, have lots of fun and be spoilt, give me a call. Any age, looks and status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409101**

HI I'm Jo, first timer, newly divorced perfect size 10, blonde, attractive, tactile and looking to fall in love again. Age unimportant, dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409089**

SUSIE 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 408877**

BABS 27yrs slender with dark haired passionate Italian who loves to dance, eat out, looking for nice n/s male to spend quality adult time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 407943**

JOANNA 34, in need of tlc, wining, dining being treated like the princess I am, looking for sugar daddy, that someone special to love me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 408869**

MARIA gorgeous outgoing bbw 27, good fun, caring, romantic, looking for that special someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 408733**

KIM attractive single lady new to area looking for meet new friends and maybe a new love interest. I have many hobbies and am interesting to know, pls call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 408489**

TAYLOR attractive very busty curvy black female looking for fun times with open-minded male who is also looking for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 408311**

BETHANY 25yr old blonde, slim size 10 with great personality, looking for nice guy to share my life with, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 408253**

KIRSTY blonde blue eyed size 12 nurse, enjoys cosy nights, driving, holidays, socialising, WLTM broadminded male for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409259**

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

GEORGE 60 seeks Asian/Oriental female for no strings fun and weekends away. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413707**

MALE 42, 5ft 5, med build, wltm lady/single mum for friendship maybe more. No time wasters. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4473878**

TONY 52, dark hair, white male, 6ft, confident, GSOH, seeks black female. Genuine ad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412481**

STEVE 60, seeks slim blonde for no strings fun and weekends away. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413703**

PHILIP, widowed single dad with 2 teenage girls, solvent, own teeth hair! WLTM single mum of any age to spoil. **Box No: 4656852**

ROBERT 59, N/S, fit, slim, seeks attractive slim female for discreet no strings friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413655**

MALE 49, 6ft, seeks lady for discreet fun times. Must accom. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413819**

ALAN 49, seeks lady for discreet no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413757**

BLACK guy 68, feels 45, looks 40, seeks female, 58-71, GSOH, genuine, caring for fun times and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413375**

TALL Indian gent, 53, seeks sensual lady for friendship plus, interesting chap, discreet days in and nights out, **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413315**

JOHN 70, tall, slim, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413183**

GENT widower, late 60's, looks younger, GSOH, likes music, good food, country pursuits, seeks female, 50-60 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413173**

TONY young looking 50's male, 5ft 8ins, many interests, easy going, seeks slim rock chick or similar for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413275**

6FT 1ins slim, dark hair, likes walking, animals, seeking medium build female, 60-80 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413193**

JEFF young 62, N/S, tall, fit, energetic, seeking new female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413053**

JOHN 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, various interests, seeks female for friendship/relationship, 35-52. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413107**

RETIRED male, seeking no strings adult fun and frolics, discretion assured, age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413067**

TONY young looking 50, 5ft 8ins, slim, seeks slim rock chick, trendy for dates and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413049**

KEVIN 53, looking for a friend/partner and a lover. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412869**

NORTH Shropshire male, 67, N/S, solvent, GSOH, likes walks, travel, music, holidays, countryside, seeks N/S lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412867**

MAURICE gentleman, 59, gentle, kind, caring, loving, generous, seeks lady with GSOH and similar personality, slim-medium build. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412859**

MALE seeking female companion for outings, friendship and holidays. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412705**

STEPHEN 58, good looking, likes art, travel, seeking female, 50 plus for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412633**

MALCOLM 61, smoker, great personality, likes coach holidays, drives, pubs, meals out, nights out, 60's music, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412523**

TALL 42yr old sincere male, caring, honest, loving, seeking female, 30-40 for fun, friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412483**

MARK fun loving, easy going, fair hair blue eyes, athletic, tanned, looking for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411989**

ALAN tall widower, 76, looking for female of similar age who enjoys meals out, holidays, walks and holidays. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412261**

ROY mid 60's, N/S, car driver, young outlook, seeks lady for friendship. West Bromwich area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412083**

TALL slim gent, 60, seeks slim, attractive lady for no strings relationship. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412227**

IAN 65, romantic, likes to wine/dine, days out, seeking younger female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412087**

FIT bubbly male, athletic, blue eyes, short fair hair, easy going, loving, GSOH, seeking female for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411901**

TALL attractive Shrewsbury male, 54, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement in the daytime. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411823**

TIGER Woods lookalike, seeking pretty BBW for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411801**

MALE 74, fit, N/S, OHAC, seeks slim lady of similar age for days out, holidays and walks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411673**

TALL mature male, seeks younger, attractive mixed race lady for spoiling and pampering. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411505**

PHIL genuine male, 57, OHAC, looking for female, any race, status and age for no strings discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411461**

DEE 49, divorced, handsome, fit, slim, seeks lady, any age for lasting, meaningful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411415**

MARK 5ft 11ins, blond hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, athletic, likes nights in/out, socialising, meals out, pubs, seeks female with similar interests and GSOH for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411335**

SLIM attractive Asian male, GSOH, seeks likeminded discreet female for adult friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411305**

MALE 67, seeking lady 30-50 for friendship/companionship and occasional days/nights out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411293**

INTELLIGENT sincere Shropshire male, slim, young 60's, playfully assertive, seeking complimentary, responsive, feminine lady, 50-60's who enjoys music, books, the arts and countryside. **0906 500 3724 Box No: 411285**

Men seeking men

DIVORCED male, young, fit 50, generous, own business, seeks male, any nationality, 18-20 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412727**

MALE 40's, discreet, seeks black male, under 30 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412415**

YOUNG male, 25, educated, likes arts, dogs, travel, classic cars, comedy, seeks similar older male for LTR. London/Shropshire anywhere. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412463**

OLDER guy likes meals out, holidays, seeking younger for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411713**

Women seeking Women

WIDOWED retired professional business lady, 64, affable, seeks similar lady to share cabin and costs on Christmas cruise. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413887**

Friends

MODERN young at heart lonely lady, 70's, likes trips out, holidays, seeking similar lady for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410215**

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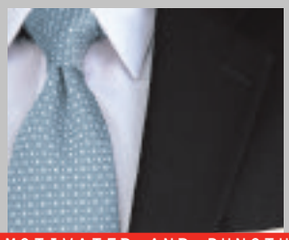

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Alfa's hot hatch in clover?

By David Banner

Alfa Romeo's Giulietta Quadrifoglio Verde might be the best current hot hatch you've never heard of.

The Alfa Romeo Giulietta Quadrifoglio Verde lifts the 240PS 1750cc engine, the TCT twin clutch transmission and the launch control function from the 4C Coupe, and wraps it all in a package that includes a touchscreen multimedia system with sat nav, 18-inch alloys, leather and Alcantara seats and a host of body styling extras.

We really can't stress this point strongly enough. If you tried one of the early Alfa Giulietta cars that arrived in 2010 and came away unimpressed, that's understandable. Alfa really hadn't fettled the car to a level UK enthusiasts expected. In the intervening years, the Giulietta has had so much effort poured into its development that it's probably our pick for biggest improver.

As Alfisti will no doubt be able to tell you, at length, this isn't the first time the Giulietta badge has been used on a car. In fact it's fully 60 years since that nameplate was first attached to the rear end of an Alfa Romeo and to celebrate that occasion, Alfa has brought us a special edition version of its hottest Giulietta. The Quadrifoglio Verde – or Green Cloverleaf if you prefer – might not get the same recognition as cars like the Ford Focus ST or the VW Golf GTI but if you're in the market for a car like this, it deserves your attention.

The Giulietta Quadrifoglio Verde features much the same aluminium engine as seen in Alfa's stunning 4C lightweight sports coupe. It's heavily turbocharged and makes a hefty 240PS at 5,750rpm and 340Nm of torque between 2,000 and 4,000rpm. This special edition gets some custom intake and exhaust systems so that it sounds agreeably Italian. Drive is deployed via a six-speed ALFA TCT twin dry clutch transmission which has also been inherited from the Alfa Romeo 4C supercar. As with all Alfa Romeos, the car's character can be customised by the driver using the Alfa D.N.A. driving selector, which employs different throttle, transmission and steering settings depending on the driver's choice.

The Quadrifoglio Verde also introduces a Launch Control system to the TCT transmission software. It's activated by pressing the brake and accelerator pedals all the way down, squeezing the down-shift paddle on the steering wheel and then releasing the brakes – the system automatically controls the traction control system, engine power delivery and transmission upshifts to maximise acceleration: It's so effective, in fact, it has shaved 0.8 seconds from the Alfa Romeo Giulietta Quadrifoglio Verde's sprint to 62mph compared to its predecessor. It can now perform the benchmark in a mere 6.0 seconds and will run on to a top speed of 149mph.

Alfa has done a bit more than throw some sporty mats and flaps at this car. The stance is completely different to most Giuliettas courtesy of lowered sports suspension, then you might well spot the Quadrifoglio Verde emblems on the front wings and the dark-tinted rear window glass. The mirror cappings are finished in anthracite, while that colour scheme is also extended to the front grille, door handles and fog-light frames. There's a pair of beefy exhaust tailpipes and a set of 18-inch alloy wheels come as standard. Look carefully and you'll spot the red, Brembo brake calipers and 320mm brake discs behind.

'Alfa Romeo's Giulietta Quadrifoglio Verde might be the best current hot hatch you've never heard of.'

The interior also features a number of upgrades. The bolstered wraparound sport seats get a one-piece backrest and are trimmed in leather and Alcantara. The steering wheel is finished in leather with contrasting white stitching and there's a set of aluminium sports pedals, some specific kick-plates, a dark interior headlining, and a leather-trimmed gear lever and parking brake lever with matching contrast stitching.

As well as the QV specific parts, this Giulietta also comes with a smarter infotainment system called Uconnect, which works well with a range of smartphone and MP3 devices. There's six airbags plus ABS anti-lock braking with Electronic Brake force Distribution; Vehicle Dynamic Control - Alfa Romeo's interpretation of Electronic Stability Programme; Cornering Brake Control, Dynamic Steering Torque Hydraulic Brake Assistance and a Pre-Fill function for the brakes.

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Motoring

Great year so far at Arthurs

Vauxhall's latest models are all contributing to a 'tremendous start' to 2015 for award-winning Vauxhall dealer Arthurs of Newtown.

Chris Venables, sales manager at the Pool Road based car dealership, said he had been 'pleasantly surprised' by the amount of interest since the start of this year.

"The all-new Corsa has been a resounding success," said Chris. "We are selling substantially more Corsas than we have ever done from the Newtown dealership.

"It really is an amazing car and everyone who has test driven it is similarly impressed. We have also enjoyed a good start with the ADAM model which appeals to a whole new batch of customers who may not previously have considered a Vauxhall.

"With the high level of personalisation available, a staggering one million different combinations, we have yet to sell two identical new ADAM models."

As well as its popularity in Powys, he said the ADAM was extremely well acclaimed throughout Europe with over 100,000 ADAMS being sold during this time.

Another mainstream of the Vauxhall brand, said Chris, was the ever-reliable Astra model.

"With tremendous marketing offers available on the Astra it continues to sell in good numbers. The five years 0 percent offer is difficult to beat.

"Since its launch the Mokka has been a resounding success in Newtown where we have sold far more than our fair share as this model is particularly suited to our local terrain.

"Many customers like the higher seating position, but without having an overly large car.

"With the Mokka being available in two wheel drive or four wheel drive and from less than £200 per month on a PCP this makes it an attractive car at an affordable price for many buyers," he added.

Pictured: Chris Venables

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Invincible car a fine choice

By Matt Joy

Porsche's range of GTS models are turning out to be the aces in the pack; now there's a Cayenne version to join the line up.

The Cayenne has only just been updated, gaining internal and external tweaks, but in GTS form, it gets its own set of upgrades: there's a unique exterior styling package, which includes a body-coloured styling kit, larger matte-finished alloy wheels and GTS badging.

Mechanically, the GTS gets a new turbocharged V6 engine to replace the old naturally aspirated V8, a sports exhaust system, unique suspension tune and some tasty interior kit including Alcantara trim and sports seats.

Where once the Cayenne was something of an acquired taste, it's hard not to find the latest model's design pleasing to the eye. It certainly looks its sharpest in GTS form; the body-coloured lower section gives it better stance and hides its bulk well.

Its image is all the better for the GTS makeover too, although even now it's not a car for the shy, retiring type. When you're behind the wheel, it's hard not to feel like a success, which is precisely why it's such a popular choice.

Best

The GTS makes no compromises over the standard car in respect of space for passengers or luggage, so you can expect plenty of both. In fact the Cayenne offers one of the best cabins in the business; the seats are superbly supportive and comfortable with a huge range of adjustment, there's plenty of space front and rear and the boot can carry a stack of suitcases happily. Although it's unlikely to ever venture off-road, it's more than capable of getting you out of a sticky situation, even though the GTS isn't the best version for such adventures.

The biggest change for this latest GTS is the switch to turbocharged power, an inevitable result of the quest for improved emissions and economy. On the one hand, you do lose a little of the character of the old V8 engine, but in truth the V6 still sounds good, offers more power and torque and better fuel consumption.

Like pretty much every Porsche these days, all the mechanical elements blend together beautifully to create a car that just feels right when you're behind the wheel. The engine is powerful and flexible, the gearbox smooth but rapid-shifting when required and it handles with incredible verve and precision for a car of this size. On a frozen test track in northern Sweden, the GTS drifted and danced its way along the treacherous surface with zero fuss. Yet it's still superbly comfortable when driven normally and can tackle long distances with ease.

'Where once the Cayenne was something of an acquired taste, it's hard not to find the latest model's design pleasing to the eye.'

The Cayenne GTS isn't a cheap car of course, but compared to the Cayenne S, on which it is based, you get a lot more for your extra cash. The more powerful engine, uprated brakes and suspension, smart bodykit and bigger alloy wheels are all worthwhile upgrades, while inside there's lots of Alcantara and those lovely sports seats all as standard.

Who would buy it? Many buyers of the Cayenne are Porsche fans who find that the firm's smaller cars no longer fit in with their lifestyle, so the Cayenne is a genuine jack of all trades; families will love it, couples will love the fact that it is comfortable but also capable of towing, and even if you're stuck in the city, the high driving position and presence takes the strain out of stop-start traffic. The short answer then is anyone who can afford it.

Porsche Cayenne GTS, £72,523

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Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat 500L range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 30.4 (9.3) – 62.8 (4.5); Extra Urban 49.6 (5.7) – 76.3 (3.7); Combined 40.4 (7.0) – 70.6 (4.0). CO_2 emissions 163 – 105 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO_2 figures based on standard EU tests for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. *Vehicle shown is Fiat 500L 1.3 MultiJet 85 Trekking with Advance Payment of only £95 with optional Bicolour paint at additional cost. Advance Payments are correct at time of going to press and subject to orders being placed between 1st January – 31st March 2015. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms & Conditions apply. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time.

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Division one: Minsterley 4, Rock Rovers Youth 2.
Division three: Red Barn 4, Snailbeach 0.
Division four: Beeches 2, Old Post Office 0; Prince of Wales 4, Onslow 2; Anchor Frankwell 2, Dun Cow 1.

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Instones Utd	12	9	1	2	39	28
Cruckton Rovers	12	9	1	2	31	28
S.A.H.A.	13	8	1	4	7	25
Coton Rovers	15	8	0	7	0	24
The Gates	15	7	3	5	-2	24
Pontesbury	11	7	2	2	7	23
Loppington	14	6	1	7	-6	19
Compasses	14	4	1	9	-14	13
Anchor Inn	14	2	2	10	-33	8
Wem Sunday	14	0	2	12	-29	2

DIVISION1

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Rock Rovers Youth	12	8	2	2	28	26
Kinnerley	10	7	0	3	17	21
Norbury	12	6	2	4	0	20
Condover Foxes	10	6	0	4	13	18
Peacock C'thians	14	5	2	7	-6	17
Minsterley	11	4	3	4	-2	15
Charles Darwin	12	4	1	7	-5	13
Coracle AFC	13	4	1	8	-27	13
Rock Rovers	12	3	1	8	-18	10

DIVISION2

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Athletico Market	14	12	2	0	43	38
Beacon	12	9	1	2	26	28
Saddlers	13	8	3	2	12	27
Steam Wagon	12	7	2	3	28	23
Belvidere	14	7	0	7	-2	21
Unison	13	6	1	6	2	19
Telegraph	13	4	3	6	8	15
Boars Head	14	4	2	8	-10	14
Crown Coleham	12	1	0	11	-25	3
Brockton Rovers	15	1	0	14	-82	3

DIVISION 3

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Red Barne	12	12	0	0	36	36
Snailbeach	14	7	2	5	10	23
S.A.H.A.Youth	14	7	2	5	5	23
Sundorne	12	7	1	4	10	22
Craven Arms Sun	10	5	2	3	14	17
Castlefields	12	4	1	7	-17	13
D'stone Heath	11	4	0	7	-13	12
White Lion	11	1	2	8	-17	5
Bull In The Barne	12	1	2	9	-28	5

DIVISION 4

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Reman Youth	15	14	0	1	61	42
Onslow	16	10	2	4	28	32
Dun Cow	17	8	2	7	-1	26
Beeches	14	7	2	5	11	23
Prince of Wales	17	6	3	8	-7	21
Nags Head	12	6	2	4	6	20
Monkmoor Utd	14	6	0	8	2	18
Bricklayers	16	4	4	8	-24	16
Anchor Frankwell	14	4	1	9	-19	13
Old PO Wem	15	4	1	10	-39	13
Wheatsheaf	14	3	3	8	-18	12

Huws Gray Alliance

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Llandudno	27	20	4	3	89	24	64
Caernarfon T	26	16	6	4	75	24	54
Guilsfield	25	16	6	3	54	26	54
Porthmadog	29	14	5	10	60	35	47
H'head Hotspur	26	14	5	7	44	31	47
Denbigh Town	25	13	5	7	48	40	44
Buckley Town	25	12	6	7	57	42	42
Conwy Borough	29	12	5	12	52	43	41
Caersws	24	11	7	6	52	38	40
Flint Town Utd	28	12	4	12	37	44	40
Mold Alex	27	11	4	12	51	48	37
Llanidloes T	29	8	4	17	54	77	28
Rhayader Town	26	7	5	14	40	49	26
Penycae	26	6	4	16	42	65	22
L'drindod Wells	25	3	2	20	21	93	11
Rhydymwyn	27	1	0	26	21	118	0

Spar Mid Wales League

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Llanfair Utd	21	18	2	1	86	28	56
Penrhyncoch	22	16	4	2	58	20	52
Carno	24	13	5	6	65	38	44
Rhosgoch	20	11	5	4	45	36	38
Llanrhaeadr	19	11	3	5	52	35	36
Llansantffraid	25	10	4	11	48	53	34
Aberaeron	24	10	3	11	51	54	33
Bow Street	22	8	7	7	45	46	31
Welshpool	23	8	7	8	44	53	31
Waterloo	23	8	6	9	56	49	30
Machynlleth	23	8	4	11	40	59	28
Four Crosses	25	7	5	13	44	60	26
Berriew	26	6	6	14	40	66	24
Tywyn/Bryncrug	21	6	4	11	41	62	22
Montgomery	24	5	5	14	45	45	20
Aber Uni	20	1	0	19	21	77	3

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Knighton	21	17	3	1	96	16	54
Hay St Marys	20	16	1	3	90	39	49
Kerry	17	13	1	3	46	23	40
Builth Wells	22	12	3	7	59	35	39
Abermule	21	12	2	7	69	45	38
Borth Utd	20	10	3	7	53	43	33
Churchstoke	21	10	1	10	54	69	31
Bont	21	9	1	11	48	54	28
Dyffryn Banw	20	7	3	10	43	52	24
Presteigne	18	5	3	10	45	62	18
N'bridge-on-Wye	24	5	1	18	37	85	16
Penybont	20	4	0	16	44	77	12
Talgarth	23	3	0	20	28	112	3

JSR Construction Bridgnorth Five-a-side League

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GTE Transport	18	12	3	3	47	17	39
B Clee Eagles	17	11	4	2	42	17	37
Green Army	18	10	4	4	40	18	34
Down Inn	19	8	8	3	31	20	32
Alveley	18	8	5	5	34	23	29
Bulldog 2012	17	9	1	7	43	24	28
Extraction FC	18	7	4	7	29	31	25
Assured FC	18	7	2	9	37	37	23
B/N Cricket Club	19	6	2	11	29	36	20
Brown Clee	18	5	2	11	22	44	17
Fosters Arms	18	3	3	12	13	58	12
Burwarton Ath	18	2	2	14	16	57	8

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grainger&W	18	16	1	1	71	20	49
The Falcon	18	13	0	5	52	25	39
Town Crier	18	12	1	5	46	24	37
B Clee Beagles	18	10	4	4	31	17	34
Silverthorne OB	18	9	3	6	35	36	30
Claverley	18	8	2	8	34	31	26
Black Horse	18	7	2	9	20	35	23
Old Castle	18	6	2	10	27	32	20
Golden Lion	18	5	2	11	28	36	17
EDG FC	18	4	4	10	20	46	16
DV Roberts	18	4	2	12	23	52	14
Average Joe's	18	2	1	15	14	46	7

Mercian Regional Football League

Premier division: FC Oswestry 3, FC Hodnet 0; Allscott 2, Childs Ercall 2; Madeley Sports 4, Wroxeter Rovers 2.
Division one: AFC Broseley 1, Wrockwardine Wood 3; Bishops Castle Town 1, AFC Wellington 2; Oakengates Rangers 1, Rock Rovers 6;
Division one Cup Q/F: Wrockwardine Wood Juniors 0, Donnington CS & S 3; Brown Clee 1, Clee Hill United 5.
Division two: Denso 0, Stoke Heath 17; Spalaig Britannia 5, AFC Broseley Reserves 1; Highley Miners Welfare 7, Shifnal Harriers 0.

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Telford Juniors	17	13	3	1	52	17	42
FC Oswestry T	20	11	4	5	44	25	37
FC Hodnet	19	9	5	5	44	36	32
Childs Ercall	21	8	6	7	48	39	30
Whitchurch A	17	9	3	5	33	29	30
AFC B'north R	19	9	3	7	37	46	30
Allscott	19	7	8	4	48	36	29
Shifnal Utd 97	19	7	6	6	34	30	27
Ketley Bk Utd	17	7	1	9	38	47	22
Wroxeter Rov	18	6	2	10	46	47	20
Well Am Res	14	5	3	6	24	28	18
Church Stretton	22	5	3	14	30	46	18
Prees	21	4	5	12	33	47	17
Madeley Spts	21	4	4	13	29	67	16

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AFC Broseley	18	14	1	3	70	17	43
Wrock Wood	15	11	1	3	51	22	34
Donn C S&S	17	10	2	5	59	40	32
Rock Rovers	16	9	1	6	57	38	28
AFC Wellington	19	9	1	9	49	51	28
Bishop's Castle	20	9	1	10	40	44	28
C Hill United	16	8	2	6	40	32	26
Brown Clee	17	6	3	8	26	45	21
Wrock Wd Jnrs	19	4	5	10	34	56	17
Claverley	18	5	1	12	44	70	16
Oakengates R	19	2	2	15	22	77	8

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stoke Heath	20	17	1	2	115	31	52
Highley MW	19	17	0	2	122	14	51
Gobowen Celtic	19	14	1	4	107	28	43
Spalaig Brit	19	11	2	6	69	47	35
Belvidere	17	9	1	7	59	46	28
Shifnal Harr	21	6	7	8	62	66	25
AFC Broseley R	19	5	5	9	39	40	20
Riverside	19	5	5	9	47	56	20
St Martins Vill	17	5	2	10	53	61	17
Albrighton J	19	4	4	11	53	59	16
Whitchurch AR	18	3	4	11	37	59	13
Denso	19	1	0	18	14	270	3

Telford Flooring - Telford Sunday Football League

Premier division: Mallard 7, Unicorn FC 2; Plough Inn 3, Cressage Sports 1; Riverside 0, Park FC 3.
Division one: Red Lion FC 5, Randlay Utd 4.
Division three: Lion Priorslee 0, Dugout FC 2; Wrekin View 5, Travellers Joy 1; Wrockardine Wood Jnrs 2, Bulls Head Vets 3.

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulls Head DB	12	7	2	3	30	20	23
Plough Inn Well	9	7	1	1	37	7	22
Mallard	11	7	1	3	33	14	22
Shifnal N End	13	6	0	7	25	32	18
Cressage	10	5	0	5	20	17	15
Unicorn FC	10	4	3	3	25	24	15
Riverside	10	1	2	7	19	43	5
Park FC	11	1	1	9	10	42	4

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Randlay United	12	10	2	0	65	12	32
Shifnal Royals	13	9	0	4	53	19	27
W Wd 2013	14	7	2	5	45	35	23
Red Lion FC	9	6	2	1	39	18	20
Honeysuckle	12	4	1	7	32	33	13
Maddocks S&S	11	4	1	6	19	40	13
Celtic Spartans	14	2	4	8	26	51	10
Telford Rangers	13	0	2	11	13	84	2

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shifnal T Euro	14	12	0	2	76	15	36
Barley FC	14	10	1	3	61	24	31
Bush Donn S	14	9	0	5	47	34	27
Dawley Soc C	14	6	2	6	43	41	20
The Lord Hill	12	5	1	6	20	38	16
Hinstock Falcons	14	4	2	8	27	39	14
R & C Stirchley	14	2	3	9	23	65	9
Cosford United	12	1	1	10	18	59	4

DIVISION 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulls H DB Vets	14	12	0	2	49	19	36
Dugout FC	14	11	0	3	74	24	33
Wrekin View	15	10	1	4	58	20	31
Lion Priorslee	13	8	1	4	53	34	25
Wrock Wd Jnrs	13	8	0	5	45	38	24
Travellers Joy	14	7	1	6	37	31	22
Lawley FC	15	5	0	10	29	56	15
Turf FC	16	1	2	13	17	87	5
Telford Albion	16	0	1	15	21	74	1

Lance's Hairdressing Pontesbury & District Darts League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lion	19	13	4	2	104	48	30
Monkey Miners	19	10	4	5	83	69	24
Cock Inn	19	11	1	7	88	64	23
Crown	18	4	5	9	63	81	13
Stables	18	6	1	11	58	86	13
Plough	17	3	1	13	44	92	7

ENER-G Midland League Hockey Association

MIDLANDS PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lichfield	20	14	3	3	74	29	45
Bournville	20	13	4	3	92	41	43
Nottingham Uni	20	13	4	3	74	30	43
Khalsa	20	13	1	6	78	41	40
Harborne	20	10	2	8	64	46	32
West Bridgford	20	9	3	8	49	41	30
Rugby & EW	20	9	1	10	72	68	28
North Stafford	20	7	3	10	34	61	24
N'pton Saints	20	4	5	11	51	68	17
Hampton-in-A	20	5	1	14	41	92	16
Barton	20	5	2	13	53	94	14
S Coldfield	20	3	1	16	32	103	10

MIDLANDS 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stourport	20	16	3	1	98	31	51
Stone	20	14	1	5	78	48	43
Burton	20	13	3	4	81	56	42
Coventry & NW	20	12	1	7	48	36	37
Worcester	20	10	4	6	70	51	33
Telford & Wrekin	20	9	3	8	71	59	29
Bridgnorth	20	7	4	9	59	58	25
Edgbaston	20	7	4	9	48	54	25
Old Halesonians	20	6	5	9	53	54	23
Old Silhillians	20	4	1	15	50	94	13
South Nottingham	20	4	1	15	41	98	13
Chesterfield	20	2	2	16	23	81	8

Shrewsbury Athletic Club held their annual Track & Field Awards evening and pictured are Dan Butler, Ollie Lewis, Dora Tomlinson,Kathy Wray, Katie Hulme, Ceri Thomas & Izzy Jagielka.

MIDLANDS 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Loughborough T	21	17	2	2	133	38	53
Sikh Un [Nott]	20	15	3	2	119	40	48
Stratford	20	14	0	6	68	39	42
Warwick	20	12	4	4	71	33	40
Warwick Uni	22	11	5	6	68	37	38
Shrewsbury	20	9	5	6	75	53	32
Melton	20	9	1	10	53	58	28
North Notts	20	8	1	11	67	63	25
Leicester	21	8	2	11	51	63	24
W'hampton	20	4	1	15	42	67	13
Wellingboro	20	3	0	17	24	129	9
K Heath Pick	20	0	0	20	11	162	0

WEST MIDLANDS PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Finchfield	20	15	3	2	93	28	48
Solihull B'field	20	15	3	2	89	37	48
A & Walsall	20	12	4	4	56	41	40
Market Drayton	20	12	3	5	71	39	39
Sikh Un [Cov]	20	10	4	6	73	56	33
Ludlow	20	10	3	7	61	51	33
Bromsgrove	20	6	6	8	59	66	24
Wednesbury	20	5	5	10	41	48	20
Streetly	20	5	5	10	44	56	20
Redditch	20	4	2	14	43	80	14
Stafford	20	3	2	15	25	72	11
W Bromwich	20	3	0	17	29	110	9

WEST MIDLANDS 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bloxwich	18	16	1	1	109	17	49
Old Wulfrunians	18	16	0	2	77	26	48
Pershore	18	12	0	6	62	50	36
Oswestry	18	13	1	4	90	28	34
Leamington	18	11	0	7	64	38	33
Newtown	19	6	3	10	35	61	21
Evesham	18	6	1	11	37	60	19
Whitchurch	19	6	1	12	34	72	19
Droitwich	18	4	1	13	29	71	13
Barlaston	18	3	2	13	30	87	11
Yardley	18	2	0	16	25	82	6

Midlands Ladies League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
N'pton Saints	17	14	1	2	62	20	43
Leamington	17	11	4	2	51	24	37
North Notts	17	8	4	5	41	36	28
Shrewsbury	17	7	4	6	30	22	25
Edgbaston	17	6	5	6	23	26	23
L'boro Stdnts II	17	6	2	9	24	29	20
Cannock II	17	5	4	8	18	27	19
Towcester	17	4	4	9	16	35	16
Olton & WW II	17	4	3	10	21	46	15
Kettering	17	2	5	10	12	33	11

Midland Feeder West

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Warwick	17	11	4	2	51	18	37
Stone	17	11	3	3	45	19	36
Telford & Wrekin	17	11	1	5	60	41	34
Lichfield II	17	9	1	7	42	28	28
Shrewsbury II	17	8	3	6	31	24	27
Stratford	17	8	2	7	40	25	26
Sutton Cold III	17	7	3	7	38	37	24
Harborne II	17	7	3	7	34	33	24
Bournville	17	0	4	13	9	83	4
Bloxwich	17	0	2	15	12	54	2

Cheshire League

DIVISION1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sale	21	20	0	1	122	17	60
Wrex Glyndwr	21	19	1	1	94	20	58
South Cheshire	21	17	1	3	99	21	52
Winnington Pk	20	13	2	5	99	46	41
Chester II	20	9	2	9	54	60	26
Alderley Edge II	20	8	2	10	30	46	26
Northop Hall	19	7	1	11	47	68	22
Macclesfield	21	6	4	11	34	61	22
Oxton	21	5	3	13	30	58	18
Bowdon IV	21	4	2	15	28	99	14
Sale II	21	3	2	16	23	107	8
Knutsford	20	2	0	18	19	76	6

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Neston SW II	21	17	2	2	67	16	53
Lymm II	21	17	2	2	66	21	53
Oswestry	21	14	2	5	53	25	44
Warrington	21	11	4	6	44	26	34
Golborne	21	8	3	10	20	34	27
Crewe Vagrants II	21	7	3	11	45	54	24
Alderley Edge III	21	7	3	11	29	50	24
Triton	21	6	4	11	27	47	22
Deeside R'blers II	21	7	0	14	26	36	21
Chester III	21	6	3	12	30	50	21
Macclesfield II	20	5	3	12	26	48	18
Wilmslow II	20	3	5	12	27	53	14

Shropshire Chess League

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Priorslee Lions A	9	7	2	0	29.5	15.5	16
Newport A	11	6	2	3	32.5	22.5	14
Telepost A	10	5	1	4	26.5	23.5	11
Wellington A	10	3	5	2	26	24	11
Shrewsbury A	10	4	0	6	23.5	26.5	8
Oswestry A	10	2	1	7	20.5	29.5	5
Telford A	10	2	1	7	16.5	33.5	5

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Church Stretton A	10	9	0	1	42	8	18
Telford B	10	7	2	1	34	16	16
Telepost B	10	3	4	3	23	27	10
Shrewsbury B	10	3	4	3	22.5	27.5	10
Priorslee Lions B	10	1	4	5	18.5	31.5	6
Telford C	11	1	4	6	17.5	37.5	6
Wellington B	9	1	2	6	17.5	27.5	4

DIVISION 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
C Stretton B	11	9	2	0	33.5	10.5	20
Newport B 9	7	2	0	27	9	16	
Newport C 11	6	0	5	21	23	12	
Priorslee Lions C	10	5	0	5	18	22	10
Telepost C	10	2	2	6	15.5	24.5	6
Oswestry B	10	0	3	7	13.5	26.5	3
Newport Juniors	9	1	1	7	11.5	24.5	3

Wrekin Short Mat Bowling League

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	D	Agg	Pts
Newport CG B	12	8	3	1	53	17
Madeley Ct B	12	7	4	1	12	15
Newport CG C	12	7	5	0	45	14
Ketley Bk B	12	6	6	0	8	12
Telford B	11	5	6	0	912	10
St Georges A	11	4	7	0	-68	8
Broseley Vic B	12	3	9	0	-40	6

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	D	Agg	Pts
Newport CG A	9	7	2	0	41	14
Broseley Vic A	10	6	4	0	34	12
Newport CG D	10	5	5	0	13	10
Sutton Hill A	9	4	3	2	8	10
Ketley Bk A	10	4	5	1	-13	9
St Georges C	10	1	8	1	-80	3

DIVISION 3

	P	W	L	D	Agg	Pts
Shrewsbury D	10	8	2	0	86	16
Ketley Bk D	10	5	5	0	3	10
St Georges D	10	4	6	0	6	8
Dawley D	9	4	5	0	-10	8
Ketley Bk C	10	4	6	0	-41	8
Ketley Bk E	9	4	5	0	-44	8

DIVISION 4

	P	W	L	D	Agg	Pts
Dawley C	10	8	2	0	26	16
Newport CG E	10	7	3	0	39	14
St Georges B	10	6	4	0	11	12
Sutton Hill D	9	4	5	0	-12	8
Telford A	9	3	6	0	13	6
Sutton Hill C	10	1	9	0	-77	2

English Rugby Clubs

National League 2 North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hull Ionians	26	23	0	3	829	378	114
Ampthill	26	22	1	3	920	370	111
Sedgley Park	26	15	1	10	775	567	79
Caldy	26	15	1	10	646	633	79
Chester	26	15	0	11	636	514	76
Otley	26	13	1	12	602	538	72
Broadstreet	26	14	0	12	626	586	68
Harrogate	25	13	3	9	583	533	68
Huddersfield	26	12	2	12	521	549	63
Stourbridge	26	11	1	14	635	683	60
Leicester Lions	26	12	0	14	518	719	58
Preston Grass	26	9	0	17	533	584	54
Luctonians	26	9	0	17	545	691	50
Hull	26	9	1	16	449	696	48
B'ham/Solihull	26	7	2	17	604	714	45
Stockport	25	1	1	23	350	1017	12

National League 3 Midlands

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
South Leicester	22	21	0	1	782	338	100
Hinckley	22	17	0	5	606	333	79
P'borough Lns	22	14	0	8	692	401	73
Nuneaton	22	15	0	7	586	397	72
Bromsgrove	22	14	0	8	640	436	71
Scunthorpe	22	14	0	8	553	473	68
Old Hales	22	13	0	9	596	443	65
Sandbach	22	11	0	11	615	490	60
Lichfield	22	12	0	10	606	623	58
Sutton C'field	22	8	0	14	492	606	42
Longton	22	7	0	15	432	650	37
Bournville	22	4	0	18	395	771	21
Burton	22	3	0	19	351	748	17
Dudley Kings	22	1	0	21	242	879	7

Midlands 1 West

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Newport, Salop	22	21	0	1	981	235	105
Hereford	22	17	0	5	569	359	78
Worcs Wdrs	22	16	1	5	634	312	77
Crewe/N'wich	22	12	0	10	532	573	63
Stoke on Trent	22	12	0	10	549	478	61
S'ford U Avon	22	12	1	9	470	434	56
Walsall	22	11	1	10	520	550	55
Kenilworth	22	11	1	10	384	476	55
Whitchurch	22	10	0	12	435	540	52
Leek	22	8	0	14	522	631	46
Silhillians	22	4	2	16	413	666	31
Earlsdon	22	5	0	17	417	591	29
Barkers Butts	22	5	0	17	358	663	29
B'well/Balsall	22	6	2	14	285	561	27

Midlands 2 West North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bridgnorth	18	18	0	0	821	113	88
Old Saltleians	19	16	0	3	574	235	78
Kidderminster	19	10	1	8	530	482	55
W'ton	19	11	0	8	426	357	54
Moseley Oak	18	11	0	7	383	371	50
S'bridge Lns	19	10	0	9	408	409	50
Camp Hill	19	9	0	10	427	394	47
Shrewsbury	19	8	1	10	337	343	46
Veseyans	19	8	0	11	383	508	43
Ludlow	19	5	0	14	270	675	25
Stafford	19	4	1	14	245	506	24
Tamworth	19	1	1	17	217	628	4

Midlands 3 West North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Handsworth	19	17	1	1	895	271	88
Harborne	19	15	2	2	807	341	82
Eccleshall	19	14	0	5	636	271	72
N'castle, Staffs	19	13	0	6	811	268	66
Edwardians	19	13	0	6	414	309	58
Burntwood	19	12	1	6	580	350	58
Willenhall	19	9	1	9	403	341	46
Wednesbury	19	6	0	13	402	492	34
Clee Hill	19	6	1	12	275	463	34
Bloxwich	19	5	0	14	296	537	27
Uttoxeter	19	1	0	18	118	820	5
Aston OE	19	0	0	19	84	1258	0

Midlands 4 West North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cleobury Mr	16	15	0	1	740	76	72
Barton-U-N'wd	18	14	0	4	535	287	66
Cannock	16	12	1	3	423	148	58
Rugeley	17	10	0	7	320	307	50
Telford Hornet	17	8	0	9	262	238	41
Bishops Castle	16	8	0	8	220	242	39
Yardley & Dist	18	7	1	10	316	363	37
Bromyard	16	7	0	9	366	398	29
Market Drayton	17	5	0	12	142	393	22
Greyhound	18	3	0	15	217	607	14
Tenbury	17	3	0	14	139	621	13

Midlands 5 West North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Aldridge	15	12	1	2	583	208	61
Church Stretton	13	11	0	2	432	161	54
Warley	13	9	0	4	295	220	46
Essington	14	7	0	7	402	194	37
Stourport	13	8	0	5	344	198	34
St Leonards	13	6	1	6	313	220	32
Chaddesley C	13	5	0	8	217	219	13
Whittington	15	2	0	13	77	558	4
B'ham B'arians	13	0	0	13	83	768	1

Midlands West Reserve League

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Luctonians II	13	13	0	0	620	91	52
Old Patesians II	13	9	0	4	507	227	40
Bromsgrove II	13	9	0	4	385	240	40
Nuneaton II	14	8	0	6	343	309	38
Old Hales II	12	6	0	6	193	319	30
Sutton C'field II	13	3	1	9	261	332	23
Dudley Kings II	14	3	0	11	148	521	23
Worcs Wdrs II	14	1	1	12	117	535	17

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
N'port, Salop II	11	10	0	1	401	119	41
Lichfield II	12	8	0	4	281	220	36
B'ham/S'hull D	12	8	0	4	251	184	35
Burton A XV	11	7	0	4	171	143	31
Hereford II	12	3	1	8	63	156	19
Walsall II	11	2	0	9	133	295	15
Bromsgrove III	11	1	1	9	35	218	11

Division 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Camp Hill II	15	13	1	1	543	129	55
S'bridge Lns II	15	12	0	3	311	190	51
W'ton II	15	11	1	3	329	189	48
Luctonians III	16	11	0	5	251	146	47
Old Saltleians II	14	6	0	8	261	288	30
Sutton C'field III	14	4	0	10	190	511	26
DK Wasps XV	15	3	1	11	169	344	24
Droitwich II	15	3	0	12	262	365	21
Moseley Oak II	15	2	1	12	245	399	16

South Lancs/Cheshire Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Liverpool Coll	21	19	0	2	844	180	95
Tyldesley	22	18	0	4	793	340	91
Southport	22	17	0	5	613	356	81
Dukinfield	22	14	1	7	546	370	72
Oswestry	22	14	1	7	541	407	71
Orrell	22	12	1	9	424	337	58
Ormskirk	22	11	1	10	588	428	56
V'bonds IOM	21	10	0	11	609	569	53
Moore	21	11	2	8	530	533	46
Port Sunlight	22	6	1	15	436	490	41
Marple	22	5	0	17	389	535	29
Ashton-on-M	22	5	1	16	240	674	26
Prenton	21	3	0	18	275	786	16
Trentham	22	3	0	19	197	1020	9

North Shropshire Indoor Cricket League

Frankton 87-4 (I Whitticase 42 no, S Thornley 3-29), Wem 64 (K Higgins 30, M Lammie 2-15). Frankton won by 23 runs.
Shelton 120-2 (M Davies 31 no, J Wear 30, M Chambers 26 no), Whitchurch 114-5 (S Dimelow 39 no, H Chandler 29, D Weaver 25). Shelton won by 6 runs.
Wem 83 (J Darlington 33, B Briggs 2-14), Market Drayton 84-0 (D Abeyegunawar 27 no, J Coggins 26 no). Market Drayton won by 6 wickets.
Whitchurch 74 (A Kenvyn 2-20), Woore 75-1 (J Woodfield 30 no, C Ruscoe 26 no). Woore won by 5 wickets.
Grasshoppers 96-5 (J Yapp 28 no, P Elton 24, T Hussain 2-14, A Kenvyn 2-21), Woore 47 (A Harrison 2-8, A Fisher 2-13). Grasshoppers won by 49 runs.

	P	W	L	Pts
Grasshoppers	5	5	0	25
Woore	6	4	2	20
Whitchurch	5	3	2	15
Cound	6	3	3	15
Market Drayton	4	2	2	10
Frankton	7	2	5	10
Wem	5	2	3	10
Shelton	6	1	5	5

Creative Digital Shrewsbury Table Tennis League

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Cricket Club A	10	10	0	0	295	44	98
Cricket Club B	13	9	2	2	325	142	97
Cricket Club C	12	10	1	1	300	135	93
Prees	13	7	1	5	233	215	71
Cricket Club D	12	5	1	6	204	236	54
Clive Saints	12	2	1	9	123	311	24
Unison A	11	1	1	9	108	266	22
Pontesbury A	13	0	1	12	108	347	21

DIVISON 1

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Pontesbury C	13	11	1	1	298	182	88
Belvidere A	13	6	2	5	268	250	73
Leebotwood	11	6	4	1	249	168	68
Cricket Club E	13	7	2	4	242	246	67
Pontesbury B	13	6	2	5	257	250	66
Unison B	13	4	1	8	240	261	59
Myddle A	13	2	4	7	226	263	58
Rushbury A	13	0	2	11	162	322	31

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Rushbury B	13	13	0	0	362	66	116
Belvidere B	13	8	2	3	291	161	88
Pontesbury D	12	6	3	3	244	162	76
Rushbury C	12	6	4	2	234	200	68
Myddle B	12	5	2	5	225	198	62
Cricket Club G	12	4	1	7	196	236	53
Belvidere C	13	2	0	11	117	324	28
Belvidere D	13	0	0	13	49	371	9

Telford Snooker League

Heath Hill Roofing DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A
Maddocks A	15	13	2	57	18
Shifnal B	15	13	2	55	20
Dawley A	15	11	4	47	28
Hadley B	14	9	5	35	35
Bayley B	15	6	9	34	41
Hadley A	15	5	10	30	45
Maddocks C	15	5	10	28	47
Shifnal A	15	3	12	26	49
Maddocks D	15	2	13	23	52

Roden Scaffold DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A
Bayley E	15	11	4	51	24
Eden A	15	11	4	47	28
Maddocks E	16	9	7	44	36
Newport B	15	11	4	42	33
Shifnal F	15	8	7	36	39
Bayley Cue	15	6	9	33	42
Eden G	15	4	11	33	42
Anstice B (Dawley)	15	5	10	29	46
Dawley B	15	3	12	25	50

Sapphire Tools DIVISION 3

	P	W	L	F	A
2nd Club A	15	14	1	51	24
Bayley D	14	9	5	42	28
Maddocks B	15	9	6	40	35
Anstice D (Dawley)	15	8	7	38	37
Maddocks F	15	7	8	38	37
Shifnal D	14	7	7	34	36
Allscott	15	4	11	34	41
Bayley Z	15	4	11	30	45
Bayley Guys	16	5	11	28	52

Shrewsbury Mediabox Snooker League

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Harlescott A	18	14	4	66	24	67
Reman Serv A	18	14	4	59	31	60
Stanton A	18	12	6	57	33	57
Reman Serv B	18	10	8	53	37	53
Unison D	18	13	5	52	38	52
Beaconsfield B	18	12	6	52	38	52
Meole Brace A	18	9	9	45	45	45
Meole Brace F	18	8	10	44	46	44
Harlescott B	18	5	13	31	59	31
Reman Serv H	18	5	13	31	59	31
Reman Serv C	18	4	14	30	60	30
Beaconsfield A	18	2	16	20	70	20

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Wem Utd Serv A	18	14	4	55	35	57
Old Shrew A	18	11	7	53	37	53
Reman Serv D	18	11	7	52	38	53
Meole D	18	13	5	51	39	51
Reman Serv G	18	10	8	51	39	51
Unison E	18	10	8	45	45	45
Bagley C	17	9	8	44	41	43
Harlescott D	18	8	10	41	49	41
Preston B'hurst	18	8	10	41	49	40
Meole Brace E	18	6	12	35	55	35
Meole Brace G	17	5	12	35	50	35
Wem Cons A	18	3	15	33	57	33

DIVISION 3

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Bagley B	16	12	4	57	23	57
Bagley A	17	13	4	52	33	53
Wem Utd B	17	11	6	52	33	53
Unison C	16	10	6	50	30	52
Beaconsfield C	16	11	5	50	30	50
Wem Cons B	17	8	9	46	40	46
Church Stretton A	15	9	6	41	34	41
Condover A	16	7	9	37	43	35
Reman Serv F	16	5	11	31	49	31
Reman Serv E	16	1	15	18	62	18

Ron's Gents Hairdressing Shrewsbury & District Dominoes League

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crown A	28	17	7	4	133	91	41
Belvidere A	28	14	7	7	125	99	35
Frankwell CC	28	16	3	9	120	104	35
Rock A	28	13	6	9	119	105	32
Woodman B	28	11	9	8	117	107	31
Reman	28	11	9	8	113	111	31
Compasses A	28	11	6	11	114	110	28
Prince of Wales A	28	8	12	8	111	113	28
Horseshoes	28	10	7	11	115	109	27
Belle Vue Tav	28	7	12	9	108	116	26
Compasses B	28	8	10	10	106	118	26
Unison	28	10	5	13	112	112	25
Telegraph CB	28	7	10	11	109	115	24
Cross Foxes B	28	7	10	11	107	117	24
Brooklands A	28	9	6	13	102	122	24
Rock C	28	10	3	15	103	121	23
Cross Foxes A	28	8	6	14	101	123	22
Boars Head	28	6	10	12	101	123	22

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monkmoor	26	17	4	5	126	82	38
Telepost	27	15	7	5	129	87	37
Rock B	26	11	10	5	114	94	32
Red Lion	25	10	12	3	108	92	32
Dog & Pheasant	26	10	9	7	105	103	29
Woodman	27	10	8	9	114	102	28
Beeches	25	8	10	7	101	99	26
Telegraph Ro	26	9	7	10	102	106	25
Corbet Uff A	27	6	12	9	105	111	24
Plough	25	5	13	7	100	100	23
Masonic	26	7	9	10	95	113	23
Mytton	24	9	5	10	89	103	23
Harry Hots	26	7	8	11	96	112	22
Corbet Uff B	26	7	7	12	94	114	21
Telegraph A	27	7	6	14	96	120	20
Royal Oak	25	7	6	12	94	106	20
G.F.B.C.	26	5	7	14	92	116	17

DIVISION 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Harlescott SC	25	12	8	5	112	88	32
Bird	25	12	7	6	110	90	31
Horseshoes	25	10	10	5	106	94	30
Beeches	25	13	3	9	105	95	29
Bull in the Barn B	25	12	5	8	104	96	29
Hare & Hounds	24	11	6	7	105	87	28
Ad Duncan	24	9	8	7	100	92	26
Heathgates B	24	10	6	8	98	94	26
Red Castle	25	8	8	9	95	105	24
Heathgates A	24	10	4	10	93	99	24
Belvidere	25	7	9	9	98	102	23
Crown	24	7	7	10	92	100	21
Bull in the Barn A	24	7	6	11	94	98	20
Red Lion	25	5	9	11	94	106	19
Bagley	25	6	4	15	84	116	16
Wheatsheaf	25	4	7	14	84	116	15

DIVISION 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Masonic	25	18	4	3	137	63	40
Rock D	27	17	6	4	135	81	40
Cressage	26	15	5	6	120	88	35
Brooklands	25	14	5	6	110	90	33
Coach	27	13	6	8	121	95	32
Comp BH	25	12	6	7	107	93	30
Anchor HG	26	11	7	8	114	94	29
B Copthorne	26	12	4	10	108	100	28
B Abbey F'gate	24	11	3	10	92	100	25
Dolphin	26	7	11	8	101	107	25
Prince	25	6	11	8	97	103	23
Seven Stars	25	6	6	13	90	110	18
Coracle	21	5	7	9	73	95	17
Bulls Head	24	5	6	13	82	110	16
Inn on Green	24	7	4	13	82	110	18
Dog & Pheas C	26	5	6	15	92	116	16
Britannia	26	0	0	26	47	161	0

The Arthur Hawkins Newport District Dominoes League

	P	W	T	Pts
Childs Ercall Club	21	16	83	115
Lamb	21	14	79	107
Newport BC A	21	13	77	103
Forton CC	21	11	81	103
W'sheaf Wasps	21	12	78	102
New Swan	20	11	80	100
Forton CC A	21	10	75	95
Lion	21	11	70	92
Shoes B	21	9	66	84
New Inn	21	7	67	81
Swan	20	6	62	74
Newport BC B	21	5	57	67

Telford Singles & Doubles Dominoes League

	P	F	A	Pts
Rec Club	26	147	87	59
Horseshoes A	26	129	105	46
Albion	26	126	108	46
Bulls Head A	26	126	108	44
Horseshoes B	26	118	116	43
White Hart	26	117	117	43
Queens Head	26	117	117	39
Bulls Head B	26	116	118	38
Park Hotel B	26	114	120	37
Talbot	26	120	114	36
Wendy House	26	112	122	35
Park Hotel A	26	109	125	25
Railway	26	97	137	25
White Horse	26	90	144	21

Horsehay & Dawley Licensees Dominoes

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Queens Head B	21	15	6	104	64	104
White Horse B	21	14	7	94	74	94
Queens Head A	21	12	9	93	75	93
White Horse A	21	12	9	92	76	92
Madeley CC	21	12	9	91	77	91
Bulls Head B	21	9	12	83	85	83
Bulls Head A	20	10	10	82	78	82
Elizabethan	21	8	13	76	92	76
Forresters	21	9	12	75	93	75
Crown	21	8	13	69	99	69
Travellers Joy	19	5	14	53	99	53

Shifnal & District Dominoes League

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
War Memorial	19	13	6	97	74	149
Beehive	19	10	9	89	82	129
Whitehart B	19	10	9	89	82	129
Shifnal Town A	19	10	9	86	85	126
The Anvil	19	9	10	89	82	125
Shifnal Town B	19	9	10	82	69	118
Shifnal Ladies	19	9	10	76	95	112
Whitehart A	19	7	12	79	92	103

Corvedale Dominoes League

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
THS	19	13	1	5	95	57	31
Bantams	19	13	3	3	93	59	29
Dragon	19	10	5	4	84	68	24
Stars	19	9	6	4	76	76	22
Outsiders	19	9	7	3	80	72	21
Burway A	20	7	9	4	77	83	18
Burway B	20	6	8	6	77	83	18
Longville	20	7	9	4	77	83	18
Insiders	19	7	8	4	75	77	18
Boyne	20	7	11	2	71	89	16
Swan	20	4	10	6	72	88	14
Sun	19	3	9	7	69	83	13
Tally	19	3	12	4	62	90	10

Shrewsbury Invitational Dominoes League

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Telegraph	23	15	3	5	107	77	35
Telepost	24	12	5	7	109	83	31
BVT	24	13	8	3	100	92	29
POW	24	13	8	3	100	92	29
Royal Oak	24	11	6	7	106	86	29
FCC	24	12	11	1	103	89	25
Cross Foxes	24	11	10	3	95	97	25
Rock & F'tain	24	10	9	5	97	95	25
HSC	24	10	12	2	100	92	22
Heathgates	24	9	11	4	95	97	22
Dog & Phea	24	9	11	4	93	99	22
Anchor	24	9	12	3	89	103	21
Masonic	23	7	11	5	89	95	19
Compasses	24	7	13	4	87	105	18
Postal	24	5	12	7	86	106	17
Albion	24	4	15	5	73	119	13

Lance's Hairdressing Pontesbury & District Dominoes League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lion	19	9	5	5	88	64	23
Cock Inn	19	9	4	6	80	72	22
Monkey Miners	19	6	8	5	77	75	20
Stables	18	5	7	6	71	73	17
Plough	17	5	5	7	64	72	15
Crown	19	3	7	8	60	84	13

Wrockwardine Wood Monday Night Dominoes Mini League

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Rec Club	10	7	3	43	27	57
Blue Pig	10	7	3	37	33	51
Black & White	10	6	4	37	33	49
Duke A	10	4	6	35	35	43
Wendy House A	10	4	6	34	36	42
Don Sports	10	5	5	31	39	41
Bulls Head	10	4	6	32	38	40
Foresters	10	3	7	31	39	37

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Football C	10	7	3	42	28	56
Coalport	10	5	5	41	29	51
Duke B	10	5	5	36	34	46
Football A	10	4	6	36	34	44
Football B	10	6	4	32	38	44
Labour	10	5	5	33	37	43
White Horse	10	5	5	31	39	41
Wendy House	10	3	7	29	41	35

Oakengates Pool League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Elizabethan	21	17	4	0	152	58	38
Horseshoes B	21	16	1	4	135	75	33
White Horse LH	21	14	5	2	135	75	33
WWFC (Beehive)	21	12	4	5	127	83	28
Bush B	21	9	5	7	115	95	23
WWFC	21	8	5	8	106	104	21
Royal George	21	9	3	9	106	104	20
Rose & Crown	21	8	4	9	99	111	20
Bush A	21	3	6	12	79	131	12
Horseshoes A	21	4	4	13	77	133	12
Trench Tavern	21	3	2	16	73	137	8
Haygate	21	1	1	19	56	154	3

Landlord's Invitational Pool League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Elizabethan A	33	28	1	4	190	76	85
Horseshoes	34	25	5	4	191	81	80
Beehive	34	25	3	6	168	104	78
Elizabethan B	33	23	6	4	175	89	75
WWFC Z	34	20	6	8	166	106	66
WWFC C	32	17	9	6	145	111	59
Rose & Crown B	33	18	4	11	142	122	58
Haygate A	31	14	11	6	141	107	53
Bush B	33	15	8	10	144	120	53
WWFC B	33	15	6	12	144	120	51
Kings Head	33	14	5	14	136	128	47
Rose & Crown A	33	7	8	18	113	151	28
Turf	33	7	6	20	109	155	27
Bush A	33	8	3	22	98	166	27
Bayley Club	32	6	6	20	100	156	23
Haygate B	33	5	8	20	95	169	23
Park B	33	6	5	22	103	161	19
Coalport A	33	4	4	25	79	187	16
Park A	33	2	4	27	67	197	10

Shrewsbury Quiz League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belle Vue Tav B	14	12	1	1	1094	959	25
Prince of Wales A	13	9	2	2	965	925	20
Cross Foxes	14	9	1	4	1028	979	19
Cock Inn	15	8	1	6	1077	1068	17
Prince of W B	13	6	2	5	939	925	14
Bicton A	13	6	2	5	920	914	14
Bicton B	12	6	0	6	839	866	12
Belle Vue Tav A	14	5	0	9	973	990	10
Charles Darwin	13	5	0	8	906	932	10
Boars Head	13	3	1	9	873	940	07
The Dolphin	12	0	0	12	804	889	00

Morda in stalemate as the top two clash

DEFENCES held sway as Morda United were locked in an entertaining goalless draw in their top of the table clash at Llanymynech in the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division two.

The result means that high-flying Llany remain top of the league, just one point above their Weston Road visitors who have two games in hand.

Playing up the slope in the first half, Morda enjoyed the better of the early play, their first chance coming when impressive defender Aled Davies headed over from a Harry Davies corner.

The hosts then came more into the game with a good move between Jack Roberts and Mike Edwards being thwarted by a fine block by defender Mike Jones.

Harry Davies and Gwyn Davies were involved in some good approach play for Morda whiet Llanymynech were dangerous from quick breaks, mainly through Grant Jones.

Well organised defending by both sides prevented many chances from being created, although Morda's battling midfielder Danny Owen headed narrowly wide from a Harry Davies free kick.

The home side ended the first half on top with Mike Edwards drawing a fine save from keeper Josh Thomas from under the bar after a good flick from Lee Rogers. Rogers himself was then unlucky to see his header rebound off the bar to safety shortly before the break.

Morda enjoyed a good spell from the restart with Aled Davies finding Emlyn Williams whose shot was deflected wide.

Owen then had a shot saved but Llanymynech came back into the game with Mike Edwards seeing his effort go wide then having a shot blocked by Mike Jones.

Both sides used all three substitutes but fortunes continued to fluctuate with Owen narrowly failing to secure a win for Morda when heading wide from a late corner and Thomas saving on the line at the other end.

On Saturday, Morda look to maintain their title challenge when they travel to face mid-table Forden United, a side they have already defeated at home 2-0 in a Valentine's day fixture.

TNS Ladies maintain winning run

TWO goals from Emily Ridge and one from Laura Morris saw The New Saints Ladies maintain their 100 per cent record in the West Midlands Women's Premier League with a 3-0 success over lowly Coventrians Ladies at Park Hall Stadium.

The victory kept the Saints hard on the heels of leaders Birmingham & West Midlands Police who are also unbeaten, with the sides coming face to face in a potential title showdown on Saturday.

Looking to continue their run of good form after a 4-0 win at Knowle, the Saints got off to a good start when taking the lead after just seven minutes as Morris broke free of the defence, and slotted past the goalkeeper into the bottom corner of the net.

Ridge then doubled the advantage after 21 minutes, taking the ball past a couple of defenders before lobbing the keeper from just outside of the box.

The Saints were in control and just after the half hour mark added their third when a mix-up between the Coventrians defender and goalkeeper saw Ridge nip in to tap the ball into the empty net for a 3-0 interval lead.

The second half had little to offer, with the Saints controlling the scoreline, while bottom club Coventrians were unable to test Charlotte Edmunds in the home goal.

TNS themselves were off form, lacking a final ball in the final third to create any chances of their own, but defensively stayed strong throughout.

Manager Joe Thompson said: "A win's a win at the end of the day, we didn't score as many as we have in previous games, but that doesn't reflect the performance.

"We knew it was going to be a closer game than our last meeting as they have won two on the bounce and are looking to move off the bottom of the league.

"At the end we had to rotate the squad to play different positions, but they all coped well. Sophie had a great game today and deserved the player of the match after her past few performances as well."

TNS trail the Police by four points, but have two games in hand.

Champion display as New Saints seal deal

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

THE champagne was again flowing as The New Saints completed another dominant Welsh Premier title triumph with a comfortable 3-0 victory over Bala Town at Park Hall.

Unbeaten in all competitions this season, the Saints needed just one point to make sure of a fourth consecutive league crown, and record ninth in all.

And they never looked likely to slip up after taking an early lead through Adrian Cieslewicz's header before a second half brace from Matty Williams secured a convincing win.

The victory means that TNS – now 20 points clear – have wrapped up the title with five games to spare after what proved a one-horse race.

Saturday's success marked the second leg of their treble quest with the Saints having also hoisted the Word Cup back – and few would bet against the full-timers making it three trophies after reaching the semi-finals of the Welsh Cup.

Boasting a proud unbeaten record at home that stretches back to November 2012, the runaway leaders bossed the early possession, with man-of-the-match Chris Marriott whipping a couple of dangerous crosses into the box.

Momentum

Cieslewicz was then denied by the outstretched leg of Morris moments later but, from the resulting Marriott corner in the 13th minute, the winger made no mistake when heading home from a couple of yards out.

The Saints maintained their momentum in the second half and, four minutes after the break, Wilde steered his shot over the bar when well placed after Aeron Edwards had found plenty of space in the box.

However, the advantage was doubled in the 55th minute when Jamie Mullan was released down the right and drilled an inviting cross into the goalmouth which was bundled in at the near post by Williams.

Williams was not to be denied when notching his second and team's third on the 73rd minute when tucking in Simon Spender's cross from the right byline to effectively settle the game and see the league title remain at Park Hall.

Bala boss Colin Caton, whose side formed a guard of honour for their opponents at the final whistle, said: "I've got to take my hat off to The New Saints who have been outstanding .

Bright shines in FC Oswestry win

FC Oswestry Town goalscorer Scott Bright lets fly at the FC Hodnet goal. *Picture: Ian Jones.*

FC OSWESTRY Town moved to within five points of the summit in the Mercian Regional League premier division with a convincing 3-0 home success over FC Hodnet.

Although they have made up ground on leaders Telford Juniors, Town have played three more games than the title favourites – with the sides now preparing to meet each other in a crucial clash at the Venue on Saturday (3pm).

After an even start, the Oswestry side started to pick up the pace and began to dominate which saw them take the lead when Scott Bright fired home after clever work from Al Morris who latched on to an Elliot Howes throw-in.

The Town midfielders were now running the game with ease, and soon the hosts were two up when Bright fired home his second to give his side a healthy cushion at the break.

The second half saw Town take total control with Olly Jones and Rich Morris dictating play and they were soon three ahead when Calum Williams managed to pick out Graham Dyke at the back post who headed home to ensure three points.

Moments later, Dyke also hit the bar after terrific work from Elliot Howes, while Town were unlucky not to add more to their tally after the visitors were reduced to 10 men in the 70th minute for a late tackle on captain Olly Jones.

Manager Nick Maguire hailed his team's performance with defenders Al Morris and Rob Shone outstanding against a very good team, which will put them in good heart for their big encounter with Telford Juniors on Saturday.

Guilsfield win keeps their title hopes alive

GUILSFIELD kept alive their slim title chances in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance after sentencing Llanidloes Town to their first defeat at home in nine games.

A goal each half from Aeron Edwards put the Guils on course for a 3-0 victory to consolidate third spot, with Adam Jenkins also finding the net midway through the first half.

Llani, managed by ex-Guils boss Mike Barton, had not lost at Victoria Avenue since November 15 last year, since which they reeled off six straight wins and two draws in an unbeaten eight match run at home.

But they were brought down to earth as the Guils maintained the kind of form that has seen themselves unbeaten in the league since October to move to third in the table

The visitors came out of the blocks from the first minute and were ahead on 15 minutes after Aaron Edwards had the freedom of the box to head home Chris Cathrall's long throw.

Guilsfield were imposing themselves in midfield, but had to tread carefully after both Andy Ford and Graeme McGill received yellow cards which curbed their tenacious style.

The pick of the goals came from Adam Jenkins before the break after Mark Davies and Edwards combined down the left, and Edwards' pass arrowed in to Jenkins who slotted home.

Llanidloes came out in a determined mood for the second half and the visitors had to show their character to fend off the hosts.

However, the killer goal came 10 minutes after the break to deaden the home efforts as Edwards crashed home a shot off the underside of the bar to make it 3-0 despite claims keeper Aaron Warwick had been fouled.

This goal capped a fine performance from the fit again Edwards who was a real menace to the home defence all through the game.

Guilsfield failed to add further goals due to a combination of squandered chances and good goalkeeping from Warwick.

Llani had few chances themselves, top scorer Jamie Breese restricted to one shot in the game while Gareth Mansell had a free kick saved by keeper Dave Littleford.

"We were well beaten," admitted Llani's Oswestry based manager Barton. "They were well organised and were far superior to us in every department and you can see why they are where they are in the table."

Meanwhile, Caersws got back to winning ways in the Cymru Alliance with a 2-1 home verdict over Holyhead Hotspur thanks to a brace from Scott Williams, the first on 14 minutes when his cross looped into the net.

The Bluebirds had threatened to double their margin, but found themselves pegged back 10 minutes after the break when Mel McGuinness produced a well taken finish after the hosts had lost possession.

But they were not to be denied as Williams fired his second 10 minutes from time after a strong run from John Owen down the left before having Jack Hughes sent off for his second booking in the closing moments.

Saturday games

Huws Gray Cymru Alliance (2.30): Caernarfon Town v Caersws, Flint Town Utd v Llanidloes Town, Guilsfield v Rhayader Town, Llandrindod Wells v Penycae, Mold Alex v Rhydymwyn.

Golf returns from your local club

ARSCOTT

Seniors Qualifying Stableford: P Brunto 40pts; D Marr 39pts (c/b); D Barrow 39pts (c/b); D Rowson 38pts; J Mateer 37pts.

CARDEN PARK

Ladies 15-hole Stableford: C Wilson 24pts; H Groves 21pts; P Austin 20pts.

HAWKSTONE PARK

Men's RNLI Medal Division 1: S Ractliffe 86–12–74 (OB9); R Thomas 86 12–74 (ACB); A Porter 78-4-74 (ACB).

Division 2: C Jaundrell 91–15-76 (OB9); K Evans 94–18-76; M Pierce 95- 18-77.

Men's Daily Mail Final: Davidw and James Greaves beat Andy and Nathan Hughes by one hole.

Team Open: A Jones, K Jones, D Tedstone, S Griffiths (Burghill Valley) 86pts; S Fairweather, G Bilsland, A Kinzett, B Ball (Stonebridge & Ansty) 85pts; J Mauldridge, G Brown, J Showell, N Harrold (Swindon) 84pts.

Best Visitor: M Jones, P Nightingale, S Greaves, P Corrigan (Great Harwood & Clitheroe) 81pts.

Best Senior: J Homer, P Walker, T Hobbs, B Farnell (Patshull) 81pts.

Nearest the Pin 3rd: G Bilsland (Stonebridge) 4ft 6in.

Nearest the Pin 9th: R Roberts (Hazlemere) 6ft 7in.

Nearest the Pin 12th: G Bilsland (Stonebridge) 3ft 3in.

Seniors Stableford Division 1: D Barnett 35pts off 11.8; R J Roberts 34pts off 16.3; S Lee 33pts off 6.

Division 2: P Moorcroft 37pts off 21.2; P Mellor 36pts off 16.5; D Samuel 32pts off 23.8.

Junior March Medal: C Welch 89–10=79; T Welch 105–23=82; Miss C Tune 117-28=89.

HENLLE PARK

Bowmaker Competition: S Heathcock, J Harris, G Sutton & R Morris 111pts (c/b); C Roberts, B Jones, J Roberts & K Lloyd-Jones 111pts; J Bostock, J B Evans, N Durban & S Roberts 110pts.

OSWESTRY

Ladies draw for Partners: Waltz-1-2-3 Stableford (18 Holes): M Brogden, S Kelly, D Mottram 67pts; D Hall, E Hopton, V Challener 62pts; S Baxter, M Batho, B Bewley 62pts; A Colquhoun, R Wigley, S Watanabe 61pts.

9 Holes: S Wilson, B Bebbington, J Goff 34pts; J Williams, M Ratcliffe, M Nixon 31pts; R Bowen, J Taylor, I Gittins 30pts.

Lemon strike a bitter pill for Llan

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

LLANRHAEADR put up a brave fight against Spar Mid Wales League division one title outsiders Penrhyncoch – but succumbed to the only goal of the game from Aaron Lemon.

The villagers had their chances, but were unable to find the back of the net against a solid Penrhyn outfit, whose keeper Leigh Jenkins pulled off a fine save from an Endaf Owens free kick in the second half.

Lemon struck the only goal in the first half from close range, while Llan had forward Iwan Matthews harshly sent off for a challenge on keeper Jenkins.

The 1-0 victory means that Penrhyncoch are now just four points adrift of one time runaway leaders **LLANFAIR UNITED,** who had no scheduled action over the weekend. The two sides still have to play again, but United remain favourites as they have a game in hand on their rivals.

At the other end of the table, second bottom **MONTGOMERY** boosted their survival prospects courtesy of an 8-1 hammering of faltering **FOUR CROSSES.**

That result puts the pressure on BERRIEW who remain deep in basement danger after suffering a hefty 5-1 loss at home to Carno.

Rob Holliday got the one reply for the Rhiewsiders, making it 1-1 at half time, but the visitors ran out convincing winners in the second half with Peter Rees (2), Sam Williams, Andy Evans and Steve Jones their marksmen.

Two goals from Gareth Severs helped Aberaeron defeat **LLANSANTFFRAID VILLAGE** 3-1 to maintain their improved form.

BOW STREET ran out 3-1 winners at basement strugglers Aberystwyth University with Stephen Harrison, Dean Evans (penalty) and Ifan Burrell the marksmen, with sub Fraser Wheatley nabbing a late consolation.

The students have won just once this season, that came in the second game with a 3-1 verdict against Montgomery back on October 11 last year.

Since then, they have suffered 18 successive defeats to leave them 17 points adrift at the foot of the table.

The students had their chances either side of half time, but were downed by two goals in the first half and one in the second before gaining a consolation from Wheatley in the closing moments.

WELSHPOOL, buoyed by a welcome win the previous week, endured a frustrating weekend as their trip to Rhosgoch was postponed shortly before they were due to travel as the hosts were unable to raise a side due to injury and illness.

In division two, there were plenty of goals as **DYFFRYN BANW** overcame Penybont 5-3, Aled Davies scoring twice with Rhodri Davies, Llyr Thomas and Dyfrig Jones also on the mark.

Presteigne keeper Anthony Vernalls was the hero with a last-minute leveller when venturing upfield to head home a corner to earn his side a 2-2 draw with Borth United. Callum Matthews got the first for the hosts.

Newbridge earned a creditable1-1 at home to high flying Knighton Town, while Kerry put a dent in the title aspirations of Hay St Mary's as they ran out 2-0 winners.

Elsewhere, Abermule consolidated their top four position courtesy of 4-1 home verdict against Bont, while Talgarth slumped 3-0 at home to Builth Wells.

League Cup quarter-final draw: Penrhyncoch v Tywyn Bryncrug, Llanfair Utd v Kerry, Montgomery v Bow Street, Waterloo Rovers v Llanrhaeadr.**Semi-finals:** Llanfair Utd/Kerry v Penrhyncoch/Tywyn Bryncrug, Waterloo/Llanrhaeadr v Montgomery/Bow Street. The semi-finals will be played at neutral venues.

Ladies fail to mind the GAP

LLANFAIR United Ladies fell to a 4-1 defeat at GAP Northop Hall to remain mid-table in the North Wales Women's League.

Northop led 1-0 at the break before Nia Ellis equalised in the second half, but the home side fired in three quick goals to take all three points.

Salopians are quids in beside the seaside

OH Shropshire players do like to be beside the seaside – as Salopians returned with plenty of plunder from the Blackpool Chess Conference.

In the Major section, Richard Bryant from the Oswestry club hung on to the lead and shared first place to become £300 richer, while in the Intermediate section Gary White of Priorslee Lions was one of three winners, bringing home £200.

Nick Holmes of Telepost won a grading prize in the Minor section, his prize amounting to £100.

In Shropshire Chess League, Vinny Crean ran out of steam for Telepost B as they deepened Wellington B's relegation worries.

Driving to Wellington's venue, Crean's car ran dry of water. He limped there somewhat late and started his game with Derrick Powell, asking for dispensation to have his mobile phone available – there's a new rule which says if your mobile phone goes, you automatically lose.

A rescue truck duly appeared outside. With the game in its early stages and material equal, Crean resigned, shook Powell's hand – Powell did try unsuccessfully to persuade Crean to play on for at least a while.

Nevertheless, Telepost still won to leave Wellington rooted at the bottom of Division Two.

Results – Division Two: Priorslee Lions B 1.5, Telford C 3.5: G White 0, R Szwajkun 1; G Viszokai 1, T Skidmore 0; M Carbin 0, S Szwajkun 1; M Reynolds 0, R Roberts 1; S O'Dell 0.5, B Malone 0.5.

Wellington B 2, Telepost B 3: N Sampson 0, K Tabner 1; J Lenton 0, S Kempsell 1; K Hickmott 0, J Westhead 1; D Powell 1, V Crean 0; M Ananth 1, J Casewell 0.

Church Stretton A 5, Shrewsbury B 0: T Brotherton 1, M Smith 0; S Rooney 1, N O'Connor 0; M Bukojemski 1, I Salter 0; K Wakefield 1, I Davies 0; D Hodge 1, A Purser 0.

Division Three: Newport C 2.5, Newport Juniors 1.5: D Lovegrove 1, L Clarke 0; M Price 0.5, D Holmes 0.5; W Gormley 1, D Binfield 0; M Moore 0, Z Maydew 1.

Ladies end hockey season with win

OSWESTRY Ladies, already assured of third spot in the Cheshire Women's Hockey League division two, secured a 3-2 win over bottom club Wilmslow Ladies II in their final home game of the season.

Again, they had just 11 players for the fixture, which meant a number of the team had to play out of position, with Georgia Barnett and Jo Campbell, playing in goal and defence respectively, both having excellent games.

Oswestry started off positively as they looked to put pressure on the Wilmslow goal and find a way past their impressive keeper.

Opportunities were plentiful and a number of short corners were awarded as the hosts sought a reward for their pressure.

The Wilmslow back line, however, was defending well to keep out their opponents, and the keeper made a number of useful saves.

However, the deadlock was finally broken when Oswestry were awarded a penalty flick and Jo Campbell calmly stepped to slot the ball past the keeper.

Galvanise

This seemed to galvanise the home attack, and they were soon rewarded by two further goals scored by Tracey Royle and Jo Woodcock.

Continued pressure did not yield any more goals, but Os were not having it all their own way and as the game progressed with Wilmslow putting together more meaningful attacks.

Having pulled back two goals in reply, there were a few nervy moments for the hosts to endure at the end of the match. But Oswestry held firm, playing together well as a team as they earned a much deserved victory.

They now look to finish on a high on Saturday when they play Triton away in the last game of what has been a successful season.

Oswestry men, lying fourth in the West Midlands League division one, face a trip to Pershore who lie one place above as they look to get back to action after a couple of blank weekends.

Quiz kings can win free beer for a year

SHROPSHIRE sports fans are being given the chance to show off their knowledge and win free beer for a year.

Aston Villa's European Cup winner Ken McNaught, former Wolves fans' favourite Phil Parkes and popular ex-West Brom striker Joe Mayo were joined by Sky Sports commentator Nigel Pearson at the Gatehouse Hungry Horse in Wolverhampton to launch the competition which is being organised by brewery giants Greene King.

The Bury St Edmunds-based brewer are running a three-week competition in pubs and clubs around Shropshire and the Midlands with the winning team of four from each venue going forward to play in regional heats and then on to a grand final where the overall champions will win a year's supply, 365 bottles, of Greene King IPA

McNaught, Parkes, Mayo and Pearson will be captaining their own team of former players or, in Pearson's case, Sky Sports presenters, as they bid to prove their sporting know-how against fans from across the area.

Parkes will be joined by fellow Wolves old-boys Kenny Hibbitt, Willie Carr and Steve Daley at the Fordhouses Cricket Club in Wobaston Road, Wolverhampton on Monday, March 23 where they will take on all-comers in the first round of the quiz.

Dom South, marketing director for Greene King's brewing and brands, said: "We are excited to launch the sports quiz and offer this brilliant prize to people in the region. Greene King IPA unique and timeless recipe makes it an easy-drinking and refreshing ale, which one lucky team will be able to enjoy it for free for a whole year. I would like to wish all the teams the very best of luck."

Sky Sports' Pearson added: "This is a fantastic idea. We are all looking forward to pitting our wits against sports fans from across the area."

To enter a team each player (maximum of four) must be over 18-years old. The quiz is free to enter at all venues and participating pubs and clubs can be found at www.facebook.com/route-39greenekingipa , where there will also be the chance to win some fantastic signed sports memorabilia during the course of the competition.

Pubs and clubs can enter by contacting Route 39 on 01902 244220.

Eagles hit Route 66 for crushing victory

RUGBY UNION by John Bridgwater

IT was a case of the more the merrier as Oswestry continued their resurgence in rugby's South Lancs and Cheshire Two with a storming 66-0 victory over Moore at Granville Park.

The ten-try victory, their fourth in five outings, carried on the fine work following the 31-7 victory over Southport the week before, but the recent revival has come too late to push the Eagles into the promotion places.

Oswestry were expecting a stern test, but it was not to be as their well-oiled machine on the day pushed, harried and attacked their visitors.

Their dominant showing brought four tries in the first half as they revelled in the game plan as directed by coach Gaz Barrett and captain Andy Smith.

The forwards rampaged in the ruck and maul, with Luke Roberts excelling in constantly pushing through the Moore defence to make yards beyond the gain line, with his fellow pack supporting in excellent play.

Scrum half Hamish Fuller directed his backs into superb handling skills, teasing the Moore defence and looking for the chink that would give the Eagles the try they wanted.

And it was Fuller who made the breakthrough with the first of his three tries with his deft movement and skill, while young Fin Grogan proved his worth with the conversion.

Grogan also converted two penalties given away by visitors with one of these resulting in a Moore player being sent to the sin bin.

Fuller then went over for a second try with superb support from his forwards and backs, and then the swift wing Jack Fox was let loose by some excellent, intelligent play from his backs to set him off on one of his mesmerising runs for a try under the posts, with Grogan again converting.

The spectators were treated to some good watchable rugby by the Eagles with Moore struggling to get to grips with this rolling machine.

Just a few minutes before half time, James Booth scored an excellent try with the Os forwards driving Moore back over their try line for an emphatic 32-0 interval lead.

The second half took on the same pattern with the Eagles showing tremendous superiority in pushing the back Moore who were forced to defend frantically on their try line.

Six more tries were to follow as the Eagles gained constant territory in a display that augurs well for the last four games of the season.

James Booth hits the heights to win the Oswestry line out with Chris Hesketh and Mike Davies looking on

James Booth was forced off with an injury, which gave the youthful Luca Owen-Youens an instant opportunity to score a try within two minutes of coming on, the score being unconverted.

The try of the match came from a penalty given away by Moore on their 10 metre line. With the visitors expecting Grogan to kick for touch, the fly half spotted Fox in a clear position and placed the sweetest kick for the winger to race onto and score.

Mike Davies then went over following a magnificent effort by his fellow pack, who drove Moore back over their try line, before Fuller scored his third try of the match helped by his comrade in arms Zac Baldwin.

Then the powerful Jonny Lee made one of many of his bursting runs to put Baldwin into space to cross the whitewash himself.

And finally just before the final whistle, Owen-Youens strode down the wing, powering his way through the defence to touch down to complete a 66-0 rout.

It was a fantastic team display, but man of the match was Luke Roberts for his outstanding work rate for the whole 80 minutes.

This Saturday, Oswestry face a tough home clash against Ormskirk, who lie a couple of places below, before making the return trip to Moore the following week.

Harriers get experience of UK Champs

MALDWYN Harriers' young guns made their mark when they rubbed shoulders with some of the country's top runners at the UK Inter-Counties Cross Country Championships in Birmingham.

Although the competition was stiff, Joseph Crutchley (under-15 boys), Dillion Gill (under-13 boys) and birthday girl Vicky Gittins (under-17 girls) all counted for North Wales in the team events with Gill the first North Wales athlete to finish in his age group.

Kate Jerman (under-13 girls), Shannon Walker (under-15 girls), Chloe Evans and Margo Martin (both under-17 girls) also represented the North Wales region.

Meanwhile, former Maldwyn runner Andy Davies, who last month won the Northern Cross-Country Championship, finished a commendable 16th place from 283 senior men and also helped North Wales to 16th place out of 31 in the team event.

■ Maldwyn Harriers' hosts the Chocoholics 5k and Fun Run on Good Friday, April 3, details of which can be found on http://www.maldwynharriers.org.uk. This year it is sponsored by Garth Owen Fish Bar, Newtown.

London Irish rugby camp at Ellesmere

ELLESMERE College are running a "London Irish rugby camp" this Easter for boys and girls aged between six and 16.

Places are going fast at a discounted rate of £89 for three days of fun from Tuesday, April 7 to Thursday April 9, with those taking part receiving gifts and London Irish match tickets .

For those interested, contact Ellesmere College to book your place on 01932-750118.

Early season shock for champ Griffiths

CYCLING by Dave Fletcher

THERE was a surprise in store for reigning champion Dave Griffiths in the Wrekinsport Chris Edwards Hilly 18 at Worfield as a team-mate shocked him with a win in round one of the Friction and Hydraulic Services Shropshire Championship Points Series 2015 by a narrow margin – just three seconds.

This produced a tremendous one-two for Paramount CRT, despite Matt Davies not having it all his own way with a hold-up entering Bridgnorth – and trouble with his skin suit. Davies' negotiation of queuing traffic was vital to the win, with riders immediately looking to climb the trickiest part of the course, The Hermitage which reaches a 15 per cent gradient near the top.

He stopped the watch on 41mins 34 secs, stating: "It was a horrid day, I had a wardrobe malfunction resulting in an open skin suit from the start, but there has to be a positive somewhere! I'm really pleased to be going well now and was happy with how the race went, but the gateways were causing all sorts of issues with the disk wheel."

Davies' comments alluded to the early spring day that greeted riders, which was however tempered by a vicious wind that made riders wary when passing field openings. Despite this obstacle, riders were treated to a ridiculously fast final two miles back from The Hermitage to Worfield, with many running out of gears at over 40mph.

A shocked Griffiths was 38 seconds slower than his 2014 time, crossing the line in 41:37 but is sure to fight back all the harder as a result. The one-two gave Paramount a 35 point lead in the Top Club Award over Mid Shropshire Wheelers, with Simon Harrison and Victor Chetta featuring in the Top 10.

It was a close battle in both actual time and on Veteran's Standard for Ludlow's Steve Minton and Revolutions Racing rider Jason Harland – with the older rider coming up better in each case. Minton stormed to third overall with an excellent 44:19, with Harland one place in 45:09, just pushing out SCCA Private Member Dan Watts by a second.

But that gap was better in the Veterans' standing with Minton having a four year age advantage, winning that event in +3:35 ahead of Harland in +2:10, with North Shropshire Wheeler Phil Guy helping himself to third in +1:51. Minton commented: "I had a tough time with the wind from Sutton Maddock to Bridgnorth, but it was nice to get a good start to the season."

There was a record turnout of Ladies in the fastest growing area of time trialling locally with 12 of the 14 riders on the start sheet taking on the challenge of The Hermitage – and with a clear win for Amanda Whitmore, another member of Revolutions Racing. Whitmore looked in good shape pre-race and so it proved as she battled to a 68 second win over Paramount's Pauline Hughes in a storming time of 52:09, far surpassing her 2014 effort.

Whitmore was delighted with the win, commenting: "It was tough in the wind at times, but I felt strong and just pushed on to shave three minutes off last year's time – I enjoyed that"! Many first-timers were in this field, with Evolve putting out a team of Dawn Burns, Rachel Mullard-Wilson and Jenny Newton, but most impressive first go went to Nova Raiders' Hannah Dodwell, who was third among the ladies on 58:08.

Junior Devon Round took an early Series lead with a fantastic sixth overall, just behind Watts in 45:20. The Mid Shropshire Wheelers' youngster is likely to be one to look out for in the coming months.

Hardy takes top spot in Winter League

A great total of 56 players battled for honours in the penultimate round of the Winter League at Welshpool Golf Club on Saturday.

Triumphant on the day was Dale Hardy with 30 points followed by Mark Jones 28 and Mark Williams 27.

The competition is now finely balanced with all to play for with Richard Templeton on 37 and Justin Williams on 32 closely followed by the chasing pack.

Victory in the Sunday Rabbits &Tigers went to David Read and Graham Breeze recording 34 points to take the honours from John Morley and Richard Templeton who were second on the countback with 32 points.

Refs needed on FA course

BUDDING young football referees in the area are being targeted in a new drive by the Central Wales FA.

The associations referee officer Chris Baynton says that efforts to recruit new officials have redoubled over the past 12 months.

"We have around 112 match day officials in Central Wales which is simply not enough," said Baynton.

Contact Chris Baynton on 01874 711780 or 07770 909309.

Stephens is confident of title success

BOSS Rhys Stephens is backing leaders Llanfair United to see the job through despite having their advantage trimmed to just four points at the top of the Spar Mid Wales League Division One.

Having been 19 points clear earlier in the season, Llanfair – who had no game last weekend – have been steadily pegged back by Penrhyncoch in second spot.

Penrhyn's 1-0 win at Llanrhaeadr on Saturday leaves them just four points adrift of United, having played a game more, with the sides still to meet at the Mount in a potential title decider on Saturday, April 18.

But Stephens is confident his side can hold their nerve in the coming weeks with the title race now far closer than many expected.

"A lot of people were saying at the time that the title race was over when we were 19 points clear, but I always knew it would be tight as Penrhyn had three games in hand," he said. "But I still feel we're in control and it's still in own hands. I'm confident we've got the squad to see it out."

Llanfair return to league action at home to lowly Tywyn Bryncrug on Saturday, but will be without Luke Gethin and Rich Ainsley through suspension.

MONTGOMERY, who boosted their survival prospects with a crushing 8-1 win over **FOUR CROSSES**, are set for a sterner test at second-placed Penrhyncoch on Saturday as they continue their battle to escape the bottom two.

WELSHPOOL, frustrated by a late call-off at Rhoshgoch last weekend, will have their sights on three points when they host rock bottom Aberystwyth University at Maesydre.

The students arrive with just one win in 20 league outings to lie 17 points adrift at the foot of the table.

BERRIEW, who have been dragged back towards basement danger, face a vital trip to Bow Street.

Although four points clear of second-bottom Monty, Dave Jones' side have played four more games than their Powys rivals.

Ex-Titan has medal upgraded to silver

FORMER Ellesmere Titans swimming ace Chris Walker-Hebborn has seen his 100m backstroke bronze medal from the 2013 European Short Course Championships upgraded – after one of his opponents was hit with a doping ban.

Russia's Vitaly Melnikov, who won the silver medal, has been handed a two year ban after he tested positive for the banned substance EPO at the event in December 2013.

Walker-Hebborn and France's Camille Lacourt, who had shared the bronze medal, will now be promoted to silver.

Melnikov's ban, which has been backdated to the time he tested positive, will expire on December 12.

It had been pending since news of his positive test first broke in January last year and the Russian athlete opted not to defend himself at a hearing.

Walker-Hebborn, who is now based in Bath, went on to enjoy a breakout year in 2014, winning two Commonwealth titles and three European titles.

Cricketers are under starter's orders

CRICKET – by John Bridgwater

WITH the cricket season fast approaching, Cae Glas are running a race night at Oswestry Cricket Club's pavilion in Morda Road on Friday (7.30).

Every race is being sponsored by various local businesses, with the Glas hoping to raise funds to boost the Gatacre club.

Meanwhile, club nets have started at Ellesmere College and will run for a further five weeks every Thursday between 8-10pm. Keith Yapp will skipper the first-team again, while Simon Wood leads the seconds. Aled Roberts is in charge of the midweek side. New members are welcome. Contact Keith Yapp on 07734 162518.

At Oswestry, cricketers start their preparations in earnest for another season in the Birmingham League Division One with a friendly at home to Shifnal on Saturday, April 11. They then host another of their Shropshire rivals, Whitchurch in a second friendly the following week.

The league season gets under way on Saturday, April 25, with a clash against one of the division's big boys Walsall.

Having finished third bottom in Division One last season, the Morda Road men will be looking to push higher up the table this time around.

Meanwhile, the Shropshire Cricket League T20 competition, sponsored by Timber Frame Services Ltd, has been revamped for 2015 with two tournaments, one for premier and first division clubs, and the other involving clubs from division two downwards.

The senior competition, the Lynx Shropshire Senior Slam, sees Knockin and Kinnersley visit Lilleshall on Thursday, May 21, while Frankton have a bye. The Lynx Shropshire Junior Slam (Thursday May 7), for second division clubs and below, sees Cae Glas entertain Oswestry III in the first round. Whittington, Montgomery, and Welshpool all have byes.

CHAMPS TNS EYE UP TREBLE

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

THE New Saints boss Craig Harrison promises the newly crowned Welsh Premier champions will not be resting on their laurels as they chase more silverware in the coming weeks.

A commanding 3-0 victory over Bala Town on Saturday evening secured a fourth consecutive league title for the unbeaten Saints, and they have now become the first club to win the championship nine times.

It marked the second piece of silverware to arrive at Park Hall after the runaway leaders also lifted the Word Cup back in January, also against Bala.

Some may wonder whether the Saints can maintain their intensity in the coming weeks, but Harrison – whose side visit Port Talbot on Saturday – warned that competition for places will keep his squad on their toes as they look to make it an even more successful season.

Dominance

Such has been their dominance that the Saints are now 20 points clear at the top, unbeaten in in 35 games in all competitions this season, while they have not conceded a goal in their last nine outings.

TNS certainly merit their place in the Champions League for another season, and Harrison insists his side will not be slacking off in the coming weeks.

"There's still a lot to play for," he said. "We will obviously enjoy winning the title, have had a few days off, but we have made no bones about the fact we what to make it three trophies this season.

"Having come this far, we now want to become the first team to win the Welsh treble while at the same time go through the whole season unbeaten.

"It's a massive challenge, but we've got a strong squad , and it's a challenge that everyone is relishing."

Harrison sees no reason why TNS cannot continue to dominate Welsh domestic football, particularly with such a strong squad that sees two players challenging for virtually every position.

"This is certainly the strongest squad I've had here. It's got everything - pace, power, flair, steely determination, youth, experience - and a lot of credit has to go to (managing director) Mike Harris for backing us," he added.

"The record speaks for itself. It's a massive achievement, and I couldn't be prouder of all the players and members of the staff who are a credit to the profession and credit to the club.

"To win one title is fantastic, but four on the bounce is something very special as it becomes harder and harder each time. This is definitely the most memorable.

"They are an honest bunch of lads, work incredibly hard and have done everything you want from a team."

Ryan Jones struck twice for **Ellesmere Rangers** as they retrieved a 2-0 deficit to draw 2-2 with local rivals Shawbury United in the West Midlands League premier division on Tuesday night.

Goals from Dan Beddows and Jaton Vernon had fired Shawbury into a clear lead at Beech Grove but Dan Stevens's young side had other ideas.

Celebration time after TNS beat Bala 3-0 to clinch the Welsh Premier title. Pic: Laura Dutfield.

COBRA get £10,000 to redevelop

COBRA rugby club will soon be starting work to redevelop its changing room facilities ready for next season.

A grant of £10,000 has been secured from the WRU to help the Meifod men fund alterations to the ground floor of the clubhouse.

The whole project will see the creation of two new changing rooms with showers, players' toilets, internal corridor to link the changing rooms to the upstairs bar area and a larger water main to the building. The total cost of this project will be in the region of £40,000.

The ground is also being improved with new larger dugouts to be installed on the main pitch with the smaller dugouts being switched to the club's second pitch.

The paths around the pitches are also being extended to improve the pitch side access for supporters.

A club spokesman said it was an exciting time for the club, adding: "As always a huge thanks go to our members, sponsors and supporters for backing the constant fundraising efforts that are needed to make these projects viable. We aspire to have facilities that are as good as any club in mid and north Wales."

OSWESTRY rugby players look for more of the same when they host Ormskirk in the South Lancs and Cheshire Two on Saturday (3pm).

After a slow start to the New Year, the Eagles are now flying after chalking up their third straight win following last week's 66-0 romp against Moore.

In the last three games, they have racked up 143 points, and conceded just seven with a converted try.

Scrum half Hamish Fuller scored a hat-trick of tries in the team's biggest win of the season against Moore, which saw the Eagles cross the line 10 times in all.

The Welsh Leagues, meanwhile, have another weekend off due to the final round of games in the Six Nations.

Guils' title hopes dented by defeat

GUILSFIELD boss Mike Parry admits his side's title prospects in the Cymru Alliance are effectively over after suffering a 3-2 loss at Denbigh in midweek.

With four games remaining, defeat leaves the third placed Guils 10 points behind leaders Llandudno who could wrap up the title when they take on Denbigh themselves on Friday night.

"It is still mathematically possible to catch them, but you wouldn't put any money on it now," said Parry whose side host Rhayader Town on Saturday.

Caersws, who meet Guilsfield in the final of the Huws Gray Cup next month, moved up to seventh in the table with a comfortable 4-1 victory over Llandrindod Wells at the Recreation Ground.

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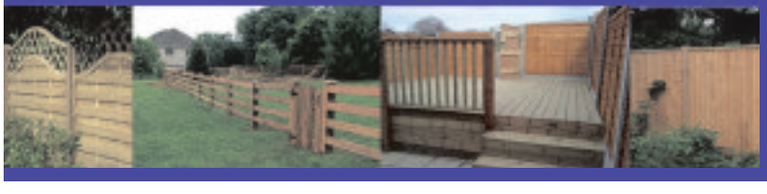

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